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ABSTRACT

Prepared by the Smaller Communities Services Program of the Oregon Department of Employment, this 1968 report summarizes the program findings with relation to Grant and Wheeler counties, Oregon. As stated, the overall objective of the program was promotion of the economic adjustment of specific rural, low-income areas--including the occupational adjustment of individual residents. In furtherance of this objective, a mobile team of 1 supervisor, 1 counselor, 1 labor analyst, and 10 temporary personnel collected information pertaining to Grant and Wheeler counties. The findings are reported in the document in terms of the area's relationship to the western United States, general description of the counties, historical notes, government, population trends, agriculture, nonagricultural industries, employment distribution, spendable income, natural resources, the labor force, and the methodology used in the study. One graph, 14 tables, and a 13-item bibliography are included. (MJB)

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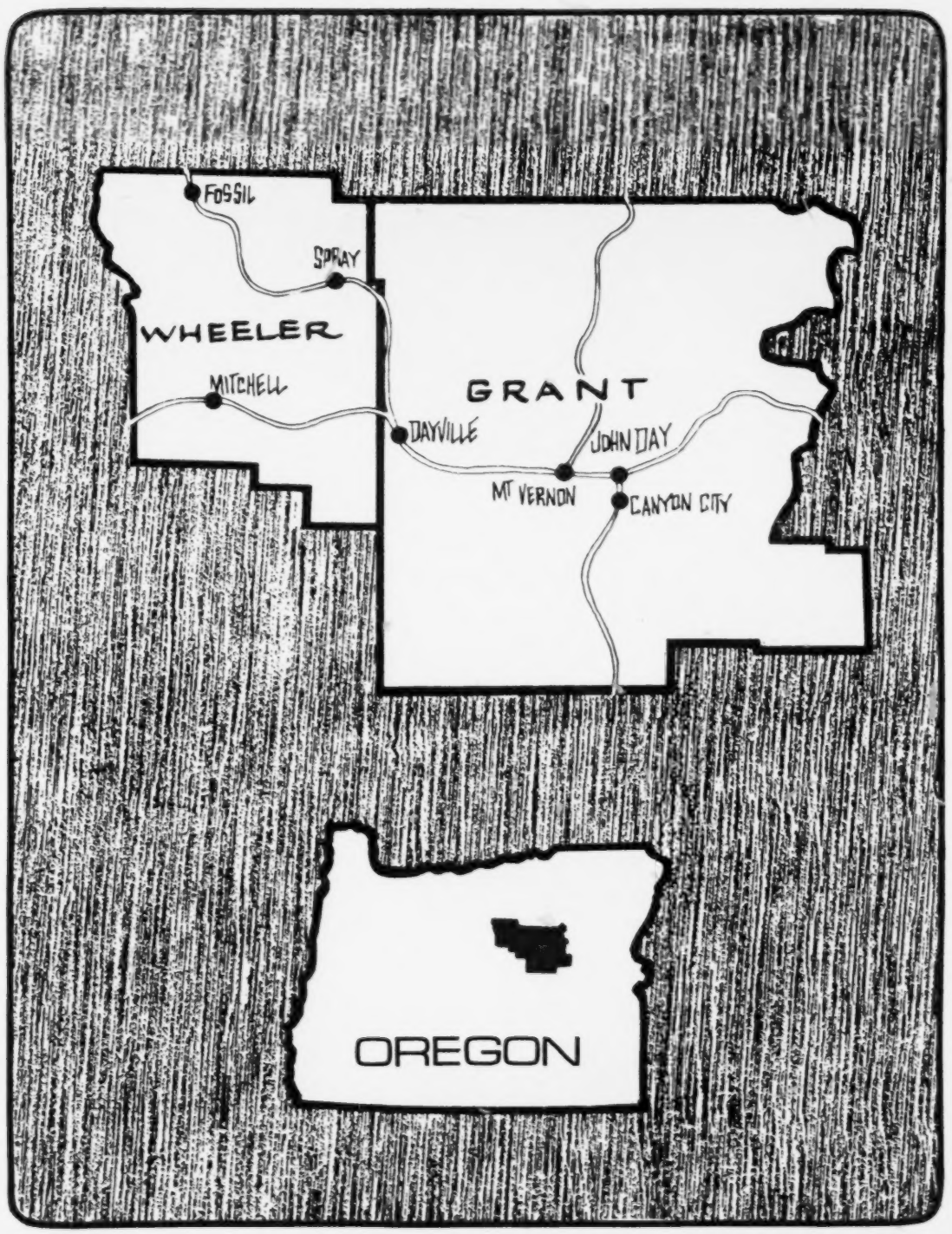

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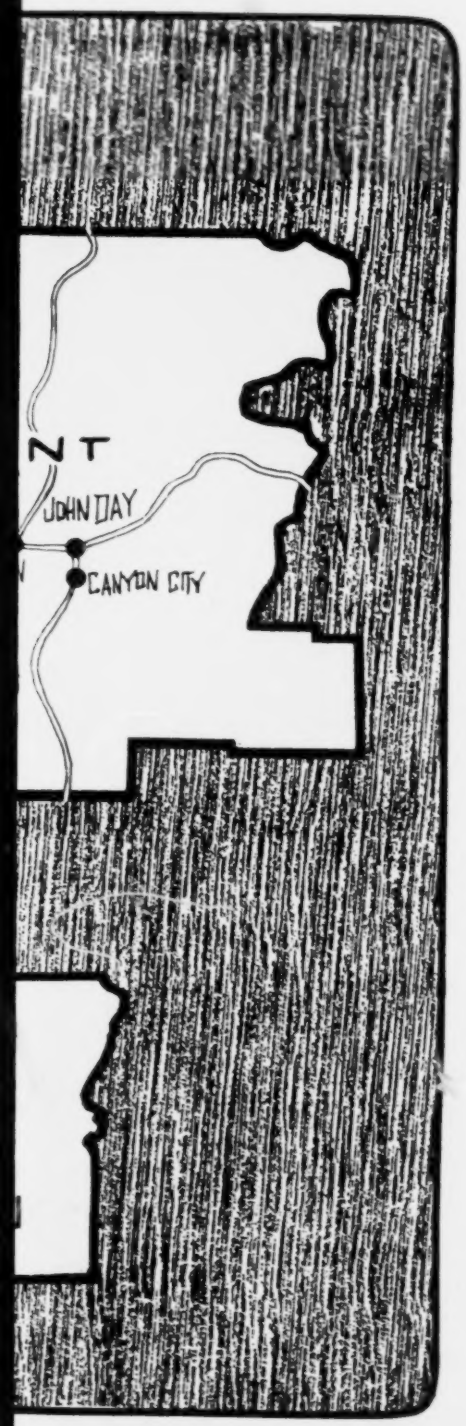

SMALLER COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

APPLICANT OCCUPATIONAL POTENTIAL AND ECONOMIC BASE REPORT FOR GRANT AND WHEELER COUNTIES, OREGON

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
SERVICE FOR EVERYONE
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STATE OF OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT

SMALLER COMMUNITIES PROGRAM
GRANT AND WHEELER COUNTIES
OREGON

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COMBINED ECONOMIC BASE REPORT AND APPLICANT POTENTIAL REPORT

AN EVALUATION OF THE ECONOMIC AND HUMAN RESOURCES

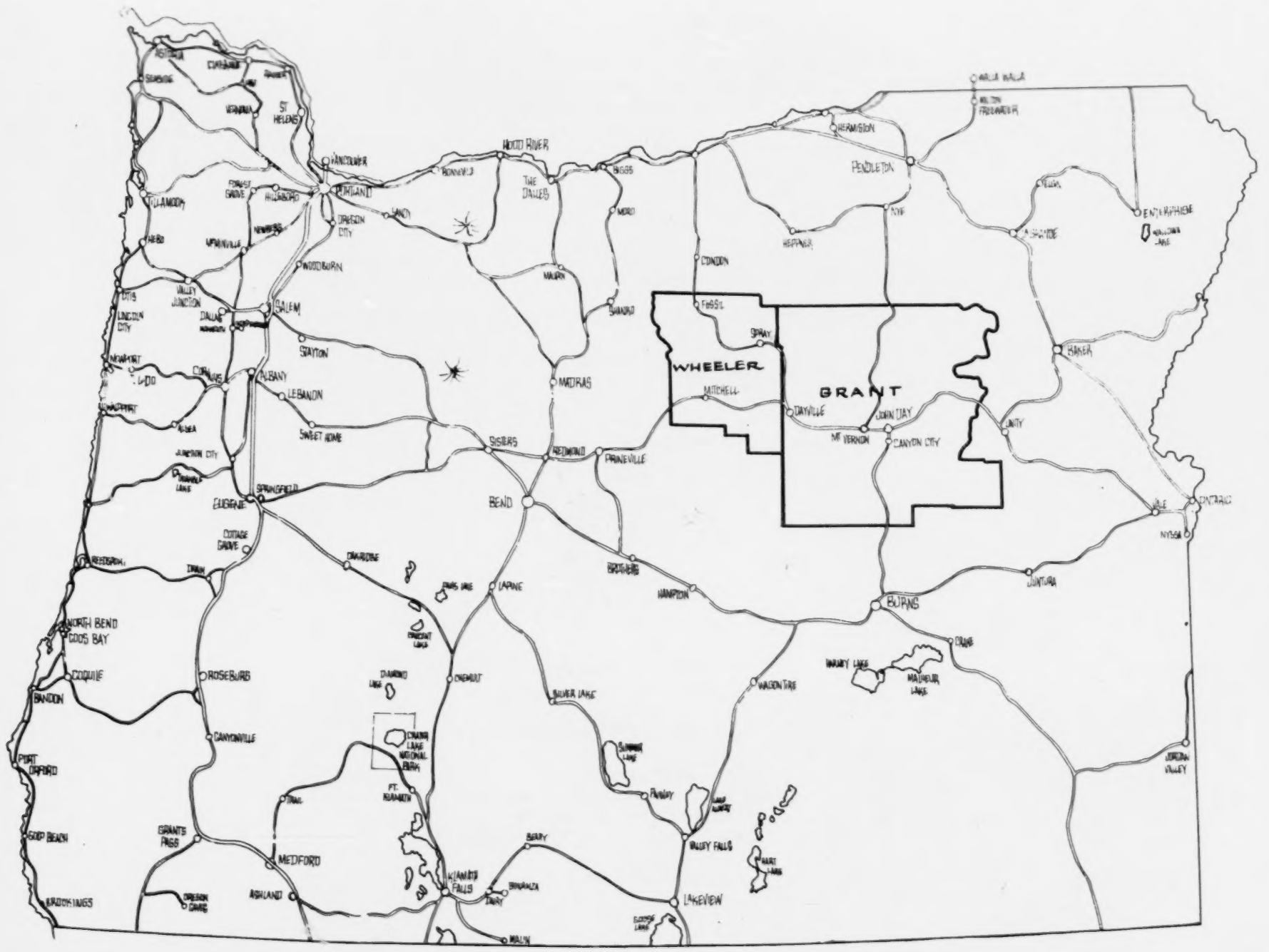
OF A RURAL OREGON COUNTY

STATE OF OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT

J. N. PEET, COMMISSIONER

PREPARED BY
OREGON STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
ELDON CONE, DIRECTOR
HAROLD TAPP, RURAL AREA REPRESENTATIVE

JANUARY 1968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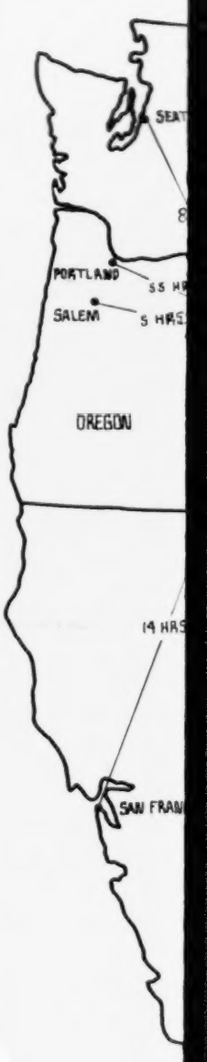
GRANT AND WHEELER COUNTIES IN RELATION TO THE WESTERN UNITED STATES

All travel times shown on the map to the right are for travel over the most direct highway route from John Day.

Average highway speeds vary somewhat. The majority of the distance to San Francisco and Los Angeles, for instance, is over 70 mile per hour freeways. Average speed over most of the other routes is in the vicinity of 55 miles per hour. Within the two counties sustained speeds average under 50 miles per hour.

There is an excellent state-owned and maintained airport at John Day, capable of accommodating 98 percent of the privately-owned planes in the United States. Supporting facilities at the airport are maintained by the City of John Day.



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INTRODUCTION

The Smaller Communities Services Program of the Oregon Department of Employment is used as a means of expanding the services of the agency to cope with the needs of rural, low income areas. Many of these areas are served only partially and inadequately by the present system of permanent employment service local offices. The overall objective of the program is promotion of the economic adjustment of these areas, including the occupational adjustment of the individual residents. In furtherance of the overall objective, the major responsibilities of the program are to:

(a) Determine the current and potential manpower resources of the area.

(b) Determine the current and projected future manpower needs of the area.

(c) Provide employment counseling and placement assistance to residents of the area with relation to jobs both within and outside the area.

(d) Assist the community in cataloging and evaluating its economic resource.

(e) Cooperate with other agencies and community groups in developing programs for economic development.

The Smaller Communities Services Program is operated by the Oregon Department of Employment under the authorization of, and with funds provided by, the Bureau of Employment Security of the U. S. Department of Labor.

The herein report is a summary of the program findings with relation to Grant and Wheeler Counties, Oregon. These findings are the result of field work performed over a period of two months by a Mobile Team composed of one supervisor, one counselor, one labor area analyst and ten temporary personnel hired in Grant and Wheeler Counties expressly for the study.

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SMALLER COMMUNITIES PROGRA
GRANT AND WHEELER COUNTIES, OR
GENERAL DESCRIPTION

AREA DEFINITION AND LOCATION

Grant and Wheeler Counties are roughly located in the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of the State of Oregon. They cover a land area of some 6,240 square miles, lying at elevation ranging from 1,300 feet along the river basin in Wheeler County to more than 9,000 feet in some portions of Grant County.

The geographical center of the two-county area is approximately 230 highway miles southeast of Portland, Oregon, and approximately the same distance due east of Salem or Eugene. The word "highway" as used here may be misleading in that the area (particularly Grant County) is accessible only by narrow winding roads, over mountain passes that are occasionally hazardous for short periods in the winter months.

Except for scattered narrow strips of bottom land along the John Day River and some of its tributaries, the land area is generally broken, ranging from rolling hills on the lava plateau above the streams, to the extremely steep terrain of the Blue Mountain Range. There is also some rolling plateau land in the Silvies River Basin in southern Grant County.

CLIMATE

The climate is that generally found along the partially arid high plateau country of the western United States; generally the summers are hot during the day, with fairly cool nights, and the winters are cold and fairly dry. Average yearly precipitation is in excess of 12 inches over the two-county area, but is slightly more than 14 inches in Grant County, and approximately 10 inches in Wheeler.

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Roughly 75 percent of the total precipitation occurs during the winter months, mostly in the form of snow at the higher elevations.

GENERAL

Of the 3,993,000 acres of land in the two-county area, approximately 2,016,000, or slightly more than 50 percent, is in public ownership. The greater part of these public lands are in Grant County, where more than 60 percent of all the land is in public ownership, whereas in Wheeler County only 24.7 percent is publicly owned. In the State of Oregon as a whole, almost 56 percent of all land is publicly owned.

In Grant County, less than two percent of all land is under intensive cultivation. Another 30 percent is used for grazing, and most of the remaining two-thirds is in forest lands. In Wheeler County, however, less than one-half of one percent of the total land is under intensive cultivation, and almost 70 percent is used for grazing. Slightly more than 30 percent of the Wheeler County acreage is in timber.

The two-county area is served by approximately 350 miles of state maintained roads, and approximately 700 miles of county and U.S. Forest Service roads. Population[1/] centers are in John Day (1,570), Prairie City (908), Canyon City (630), Mt. Vernon (440), Long Creek (312), Dayville (231) in Grant County; and Fossil (528), Spray (212), and Mitchell (208) in Wheeler County. Almost one-half of the population lives outside the incorporated areas.

1/ All population figures are from 1965 estimates of the Population Research Center of the State of Oregon.

Most of the population and industry is scattered along the narrow valley of the John Day River. Industry exceptions are one fair-sized lumber mill in northern Wheeler County and two small lumber mills, one at Seneca and one at Bates in Grant County.

In general, the drainage of the area is toward the northwest. However, the entire area is characterized by rugged terrain, with individual broken ranges, faulted valleys and synclinal basins.

RELATIONSHIP TO SURROUNDING AREAS

The Grant-Wheeler Counties area is about as near to being an isolated area as can be found in modern times in the United States. It is isolated not alone by distance - although this is not an inconsiderable factor. It is further isolated by mountain ranges to the south, east and north. The closest approach to a highway is U.S. Route 26, which traverses the southern part of Wheeler, and the central part of Grant Counties in an east-west direction. This route enters over a 4,700 foot pass from the west, and exits over a 5,300 foot pass to the east. Many of the approximate 120 miles between are narrow winding roads carrying a maximum speed of 30 to 35 miles per hour. The north-south road, U.S. Highway 395, is even worse, and with even higher and more frequent mountain passes. There is an egress of sorts, to the northwest, over State Highway 19, with a pass of only 3,800 feet involved. But this route is also narrow and winding and subject to slides in wet weather. One common carrier offering passenger transportation operates over U. S. Highway 26 with one schedule daily. Travel time from Portland to John Day by this carrier is 7 hours. Two motor freight lines serve the area on a scheduled basis.

From Grant County the main line of the Union Pacific Railroad may be reached at either Baker or Ontario, Oregon. Both points are about equal in travel time from John Day, although the distance to Ontario is approximately 20 miles greater. From the northern part of Wheeler County, freight service is available over the Kinzua and Southern Railway, with connections to the Union Pacific at Condon. From the southern part of Grant County rail freight transportation is available over the Oregon and Northwe
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over the Oregon and Northwestern Railroad, which connects to the Union Pacific Railroad at Hines. From the southern part of Wheeler County, it is approximately 75 miles over Highway 26 to a branch line railroad at Prineville, in Crook County. So far as can be ascertained there is no commuting pattern for workers in either of the two counties.

Presently the most urgent need of the entire area is a good, all weather road connecting with the Willamette Valley and Portland and with the railroad at Baker. Such a facility would not only improve the situation of the lumber industry in the matter of transportation costs; it would enable the establishment of a year around recreation industry and remove the present semi-isolated status of the area.

INDUSTRY

The basic industry of the Grant-Wheeler area is lumber manufacturing. This industry will be more fully treated on pages 21 through 22 hence the description here will be brief.

Most of the lumber processed is ponderosa pine; however, some other conifers, such as white fir and some of the less valuable pine species are being used, and actually constitute about one-third of the total products. As a major industry, lumber processing is relatively new in the area, dating only to the late 1920's. There are no plywood or hardboard plants in the area; the exclusive product is in the form of lumber and veneer or box shook, with much of the secondary processing being done out of the county.

AGRICULTURE, both in point of the number of persons employed and the gross dollar value of products exported from the county, is the third most important industry in the area. Most of the ranches are owner, or family, operated, with very little outside or seasonal help in hire. Outside hiring, which is generally for the haying season, only, is usually from the ranks of local high school youth and exclusively male. No migrant farm labor is used at any time.

(Continued on next page)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Cont.)

In both Grant and Wheeler Counties, as elsewhere throughout the nation, the trend for the past several years has been toward fewer farms. During the five years ending in 1964 (the last year for which complete statistics are available) there was an approximate 15 percent loss in the number of farms in each ounty. There is considerable divergence, however, between the two counties with regard to what happened as a result of the reduction. In Wheeler County there was not only a 15 percent loss in the number of farms, there was a 14 percent loss in total acreage as well. The average size of farms in the county was down approximately five and one-half percent, as a result of (a) the sale of some extensive operations to primary timber processors and (b) withdrawals of land for soil banks, etc.

In Grant County, on the other hand, the 15 percent decrease in the total number of farms was accompanied by an increase in total acreages of slightly more than seven percent and an increase of 26 percent in the average size of all farms.

It seems worth noting that, although the total number of farms was down by 15 percent in each of the counties, the number of commercial farms remained almost exactly the same. Both total gross farm income and average gross income per farm were down in both counties (substantially so in Wheeler County) but for different reasons. The drop in gross in Wheeler County was the result of lowered farm sales of forest products, while the drop in Grant County was associated with the value of livestock sales. Notwithstanding the lowered gross farm income, the average per acre value of farm lands in each county was up an approximate 50 percent in the five-year period ending in 1964. A check of the total assessed valuation in each county indicates this upward trend is continuing.

Almost three out of every four farm households in the two counties had nonfarm income, and one out of every four households had one or more members engaged in nonfarm wage and salary work. However, the total income from nonagricultural wage and salary work was only about ten percent of the total gross farm household income.

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every four farm households in the two n income, and one out of every four or more members engaged in nonfarm k. However, the total income from e and salary work was only about ten l gross farm household income.

Household Study workers located a total of only 28 farm operators in the two counties, who were employed full-time in nonagricultural work, although another 17 said they could take a full-time nonfarm job without reducing the size of their farm operations.

NONMANUFACTURING Nonagricultural employment has shown an appreciable loss (in keeping with the population loss) in Wheeler County and an approximate 25 increase in Grant County in the seven years ending with June 1967. The decrease in Wheeler County was quite general in all segments except the noneducational branch of Government. The employment increase in Grant County was erratic, with the Trade and Service industries holding approximately even; Transportation, Communications and Utilities and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate showing a slight loss and Contract Construction and Government showing definite gains. In fact Government, principally the U.S. Forest Service, accounted for almost one-half of the total gain in employment.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS

HOUSING

Except for the John Day-Canyon City area, sound modern housing, either for rent or for sale, is extremely scarce in the entire two-county area. Data developed at the time of the 1960 decennial census indicate that more than one-third of all the houses in both counties were either dilapidated, deteriorating or lacking plumbing facilities at that time. This percentage probably never did apply to the John Day-Canyon City area and certainly does not apply at the present time, because of new residential construction since 1960. On the other hand, there has been continuing deterioration of dwellings in some of the outlying areas, notably around Mitchell in Wheeler County, and at Bates and along U.S. Highway 395 in Grant County, so that the percentage of unsound housing probably remains about the same.

There is a small surplus of housing, almost all rentals, in Grant County and a considerable surplus in Wheeler County, of which about one-third are rentals.

Both rentals and for sale housing are reasonably priced, more or less in keeping with location, state of repair, etc.

There are no county-wide zoning laws or building codes in either county.

Approximately 60 percent of the dwellings in Grant County and 75 percent of the dwellings in Wheeler County are served by small public water systems, but almost all have seasonal restrictions on domestic water use. Only six of the fourteen small systems have treatment facilities and in the case of at least three of the systems, the treatment has been termed inadequate. Less than one-third of the houses are on sewage systems with secondary treatment facilities; the rest are served either with septic tanks or have no sewage facilities of any kind.

For the overnight traveler, there are eleven auto courts in the two-county area, most of which are in the John Day-Canyon City area. There are also some outdated hotels and rooming houses, with most of the units occupied by permanent guests, but which do provide accommodations for transients.

SCHOOLS

Generally speaking, and particularly so for an area so sparsely settled, the school facilities of the two counties are excellent. Because of the scattered population distribution pattern and the many small schools involved, there is a pupil-teacher ratio averaging in the low-teens. Approximately 80 percent of the teachers have at least a baccalaureate degree.

There is no in-school training, vocational or otherwise, beyond high school. Only one high school in Wheeler County and two in Grant County provide limited vocational training other than business education.

Actually, the only school problem is the fragmentation caused by sparse settlement of the area. The problem itself covers two areas (1) the costs per pupil, which are relatively high and (2) the scattering of the instructors' efforts over several subjects (or even classes, in some instances). Notwith
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The Household Study of the Small Communities Services Program did uncover a considerable need for adult education, particularly in the pre-vocational training fields. It may be difficult, however, to satisfy this need, simply because most of those who need the training are scattered over a wide area, and to assemble a class within reasonable commuting distance of their respective residences, might prove difficult.

CHURCHES

There are 36 pastored churches with a total membership of 2,230 (approximately 24 percent of the total population) in the two counties. Twenty-eight of the churches, covering 18 denominations, and having a total membership of 1,780 are in Grant County. Membership in most of the churches is small and many have pastors who are otherwise gainfully employed.

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICE CLUBS

Many of the major fraternal organizations have lodges or chapters in the two-county area. Major service organizations are also well represented, as well as some of the agricultural associations.

RECREATION

Recreation in the Grant-Wheeler area is more or less limited to the out-of-doors, and mostly to the spring and summer months as well. The area was once noted as a big-game hunting spot, but most of the once large deer herd has been systematically reduced to remnants by doe permits, supposedly in the interests of range conservation. Fishing and water sports are limited by lack of lakes or reservoirs and low stream flows through most of the season. Actually there are only three lakes of any size, all in Grant County, and these are generally crowded on weekends. Winter and spring run-off measurements of the streams in the area indicate that additional reservoirs could be established. However, it appears likely that construction of such facilities will be the responsibility

(Continued next page)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Cont.)

of Federal Government, if accomplished at all, and if of any size, in the face of local opposition.

There are, however, possibilities for small reservoirs which could serve as recreational attractions in many parts of the county and which could be built by private capital.

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Because of the isolated nature of the area, plus the limited amount of population, cultural attractions are minimal. Television is via cable and is limited to two channels.

There is an excellent county library in John Day offering Bookmobile Service to the outlying areas. In addition, most of the school libraries are fairly well stocked and managed.

PASTORAL SCENE, GRANT COUNTY
(PICTURE BY OREGON HIGHWAY COMMISSION)

HISTORICAL

Inextricably, the history of Grant and Wheeler Counties is tied to a single subject: roads. Strange as it might seem to the modern day traveler who for some reason or another needs to travel over the winding roads that traverse the two counties, the area was once a thoroughfare for west bound immigrants. This is not too hard to understand, if one considers the fact that one can traverse the area from the eastern boundary of Grant County, northwest to The Dalles without once being more than one day's journey by ox-team away from running water, during at least ten months of the year.

To be sure there were the usual trappers and explorers in the area, antedating the western tide of immigration, but these are largely lost to history. In fact, of all the horde of immigrants who crossed the area in the early fifties, only one man, John Zeph, is of record. Probably he, too, would be lost to the annals of the area, except for the fact that he later returned and settled in Grant County.

At any rate, and apparently in consideration of the immigrant travel through the area, in 1859 General Harney, newly in command of the Oregon Department of the Army, dispatched a Captain Walker and a detail of men to lay out a road from The Dalles to Salt Lake City. Of course, there are also some indications that General Harney was more of a road builder than a soldier, and in the absence of anything but vague information concerning the number of immigrants who passed through the area, it might have

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been that the General simply wanted to build a road. At any rate, there is a record of a large body of immigrants having come over the route late in the fall of 1859.

Progress on location of the road continued into 1860, this time under the direction of a Major Stein, who thoughtfully gave his name to a range of mountains in what is now Harney County - and which some later cartographer just as thoughtfully changed to "Steen." In the fall of 1861, two parties totaling 19 men, traveling down the old route from Auburn, in what is now Baker County, discovered gold somewhere on the north fork of the John Day River. The names of three of the men in the party, Bennett, Lewis, and Woodward, have been set down, as has the date of discovery, October 23, 1861. But not the exact location. It being late in the year and winter just around the corner, plus their supplies being low, they staked claims for one and all, then proceeded on to Portland, via The Dalles, with intentions of returning next year.

But next year - and again take note that it was by a party journeying through, except this time from south to north - gold was discovered at Hog Point on Canyon Creek, not too far from the present site of Canyon City. Whether the group who discovered the deposit on the north fork of John Day, decided the diggings on Canyon Creek might be better, or just what happened to the 1861 discovery, will probably never be known.

Roads - or rather lack of roads - enter into the establishment of agriculture in Grant County. At the height of the rush on Canyon Creek, there were an estimated 15,000 people in the roughly twelve by fifteen mile area which included what is now Canyon City, John Day and Prairie City. All supplies, including foodstuffs, were freighted in by pack train from The Dalles, at a cost of 16 to 24 cents per pound. At this point it apparently dawned upon one of the miners, John Herburger by name, that there might be as much money in growing potatoes as in panning his claim. In later years, Mr. Herburger stated he had "a very fine crop of potatoes in 1863 which he sold to the miners for 25 cents a pound." He then went on to say that he was forced to limit purchases of any one

(Continued next page)

HISTORICAL (Cont.)

person to four pounds, in order "that all might enjoy the taste of unwonted luxury." Pretty soon other people got into the act, and by the late summer of 1864, potatoes were down to 15 cents, or even to 10 cents, if you went to the farm after them. Fortunately, out of the growing of so necessary a staple, the discovery was made that the real money to be made in the area was in agriculture, not in digging for gold. So, it can be truly said that the lack of roads in the area caused the start of the multi-million dollar industry that agriculture is in Grant and Wheeler Counties today.

The first settlement, and the beginnings of agriculture in Wheeler County are even more closely associated with roads. It was in 1863 that C. A. Meyers and (Alkali) Frank Hewot were engaged to operate a stage station on what was then the stage route from The Dalles to Canyon, at a location on Bridge Creek, about five miles from the present town of Mitchell. To occupy their spare time, and provide feed for the changes of animals, they "took up" land around the stage station and in later years operated thriving cattle ranches in the area.

Notwithstanding, food was not the only commodity packed into the Grant County diggings in the 1860's. Also, it was a long, hard trail out, for those who wanted to "blow their dust" in the more comfortable surroundings of The Dalles or Portland. Indeed, there was at times some question of whether or not the gold-laden traveler would survive to reach The Dalles over the primitive trails, because of highwaymen, marauding Indians, and other perils. Consequently, some agitation for a road between the points was begun. And out of this came the one happenstance that has had perhaps more lasting impression on the people and the economic life of the area than any other.

In response to the clamor (which must have been loud and long) the Congress of the United States, in 1867, authorized the grant of alternate sections of public land, to whoever might build a military road from The Dalles to Fort Boise, to a depth of three sections on either side of the road, wherever it might be built.

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Thereafter a group of entrepreneurs formed an organization entitled the "Dalles Military Road Company" which, in due time, certified to the completion of the road and, so it was claimed, took the Governor of Oregon for a ride over the road. The certification appearing to be in order, the allocated sections of land were turned over to the D. M. R. Co.

There is today some doubt that any of the road was actually built. Historians writing on the subject as far back as 1902, at a time when some of the subsequent litigation was still fresh in the minds of many, indicate that nothing more in the way of road building was done than to mark out the pack trails that had been followed since 1862. The correctness of this statement is attested to by Messrs. G. I. Hazeltine, O. P. Cresay, and W. S. Southworth, all of whom came to Canyon City in the early 1860's, and were still living at the time the history was published. Regardless of whether a road was built, or what kind of a road, if any, the people of the area were vocally unhappy with what had been done. By 1885, the anguished cries of the Grant County citizens had gained a congressional investigation of the matter. Litigation then ensued, which dragged on through the courts until 1893, at which time the U. S. Supreme Court handed down a decision which stated in effect, that a second organization, known as the Eastern Oregon Land Company, which had purchased the holdings of the D. M. R. Co., was without fault in the purchase and had clear title to the land; practically all of the prime agricultural land in the two counties, it might be added. At this late date it is difficult to estimate the extent to which the growth and development of the two counties was delayed by (a) the lack of good roads and, (b) the land monopoly of the Eastern Oregon Land Company. That the impact must have been tremendous, there can be no real doubt.

Eventually, roads were built into the two counties. In some cases they were built where no road should be (as in the case of Dooley Mountain) and routes where a faster road with an easier grade could have been placed (as in the case of the Sumpter Valley route) were disregarded. Today, the economy of the county is still hampered by the lack of economical transportation.

If it is axiomatic that no community ever quite manages to maintain a static economy, then the Grant-Wheeler area could perhaps be cited as a prime example. Wheeler County was first formed in 1899, from portions of Grant, Gilliam and Crook Counties, with about as much population as it has at the present time and a debt of major proportions inherited from the parent counties. There was a slump in population during the early 1900's, after which a slow climb was begun to a peak which was reached in 1951. Subsequent to 1951 a downturn began, with the result that a 50 percent population loss was suffered in the next 16 years.

Grant County, on the other hand, started existence with approximately twice its present population residing within the confines of the present county. It also started out with approximately three times the present land area. It lost most of its population when the gold rush subsided in the late 1860's and early 1870's. It lost two-thirds of its land area when Harney County was formed in 1899. In between (in 1870 and again in 1898) it suffered two disastrous fires which practically wiped out what was then the principal town, Canyon City. This same town suffered another bad fire in the 1930's and thereafter lost claim to the title of the largest town in the county. The county also survived an earthquake in 1872, and a cyclone in 1895, either one of which might have dampened the spirits of a less hardy people than those of Grant County.

In retrospect, it appears that the most prosperous year that Grant County ever experienced was that of 1898, the year of the second gold discovery. Yet, not even the ensuing slump when the second discovery turned out to be something less than anticipated could faze the people of Grant County. After the slump another long, slow build back began, which culminated with the population and industrial peak of 1954.

No one factor seems to have started the latest downturn. Rather it has been a combination of many circumstances. In general, the loss of a part of the lumber manufacturing, the consolidation and mechanization of ranches, and the inability of the over-grazed summer range to support the amount of stock that had been grazed in previous years, have been cited among other and relatively minor

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factors. Partly offsetting this has been an upswing in both Government, (chiefly the U. S. Forest Service) and the Service industries. Hence, the population attrition has been slow, but nonetheless deadly.

From a historical point of view, Grant County offers many additional items of interest. It has, for instance, the oldest continuously published weekly newspaper in the State of Oregon. This claim is sometimes disputed because the present day paper, which is generally conceded to also be the best general coverage weekly in the State of Oregon, is the product of a long series of mergers, and in the process acquired the banner of a weekly (The Blue Mountain Eagle) which began publication seven years after the original weekly "The Grant County News." However, the records of the merger show that the earlier paper remained the actual publisher, only the name was changed.

It seems worth noting that the "Grant County News" was not the first news sheet in the county. There was also a "City Journal" which was published "semi-occasionally," and which pre-dated it by eleven years. Nor did the Blue Mountain Eagle always enjoy its present monopoly. At one time or another, no less than six different papers have tried their hand in the area. Indeed, at one period an out, of the county newspaper, the "Baker City Bedrock Democrat" (and there's a name for history) was the official newspaper of the county.

The county also had the first flour mill east of the Cascades in the State of Oregon. Established in 1864 by McCallum and Hazeltine, the mill processed local grain and continued in operation through the turn of the century, although much of the original equipment had been changed, including the installation of the first electric generating plant in the John Day Basin.

The county also had (in 1867) the only smelter north of the San Francisco Bay area. As late as the early 1900's, the county had the only cobalt producing operation on the west coast, with shipments of concentrates being made to the east coast and to as far away as Germany.

(Continued next page)

HISTORICAL (Cont.)

Almost completely dormant today, mining continued to be the basic nonagricultural industry of the county until the mines were closed by federal order in 1943.

Wheeler County, on the other hand, has never had a "mining excitement"; it has been agricultural from the start. Settled largely by Missourians in the late 1860's and early 1870's, the county had no nonagricultural industry to speak of until the advent of lumber around 1930. Agitation for formation of a county was first begun in 1892 by people living in the fringe areas of three other counties and finally succeeded in 1899. The first two reports of the county school superintendent shed some light on

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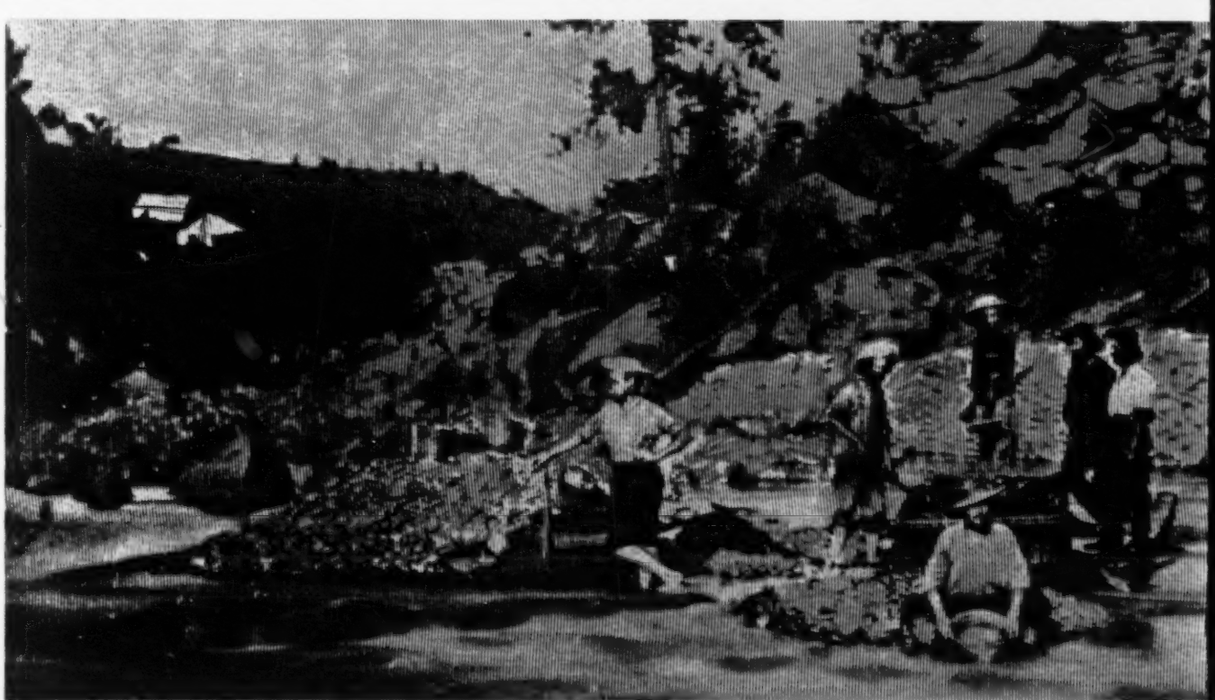

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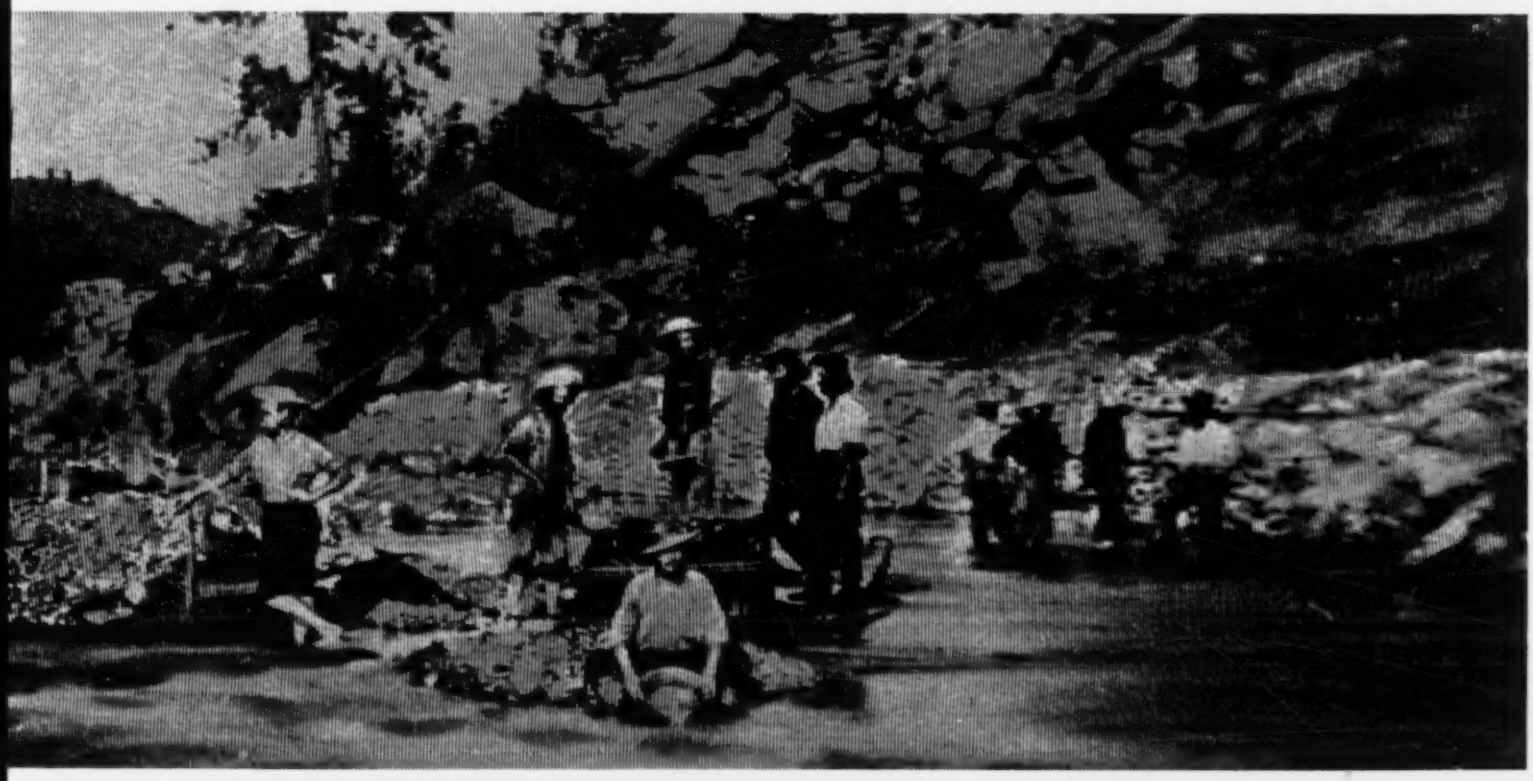
the way of life in Wheeler County in 1900-01. Of some 888 persons of school age in 1900, 650 were enrolled in school, but only 342 were in attendance. There were 12 male school teachers with an average salary of $42.80 per month, and 26 female teachers with an average monthly salary of $34.70. The year 1901 was a little better; teachers' wages were up an average $1.00 per month and there was an average daily attendance of 475 from the 914 boys and girls of school age. Just to keep the matter straight, there was no high school in the county until 1904. Oddly enough, had the first efforts to organize the county succeeded, the name of the county would probably have been Sutton, in honor of the man who established the first post office (of the same name) in what is now Wheeler County in 1867.



UP TIME IN THE DIGGIN'S. SCENE IS ON CANYON CREEK, AND THE DATE IS BELIEVED MAY, 1863. (From the collection of Eldon W. Zueger.)

GOVERNMENT AND TAX STRUCTUR

Property owned in Grant and Wheeler Counties has a total assessed valuation slightly in excess of $21.5 million. Nearly $16 million, or roughly 75 percent of this valuation, lies in Grant County.

Land and improvements constitute slightly more than two-thirds of the assessed valuation. The only other sizeable item is cattle, which carries slightly more than ten percent of the total valuation. In short, the tax base of the area is rather narrow, because of the lack of industrial plants of any size. Of the approximate $1.33 million dollar tax bill in Grant County, almost 75 percent is normally collected from levies against real property.

Unfortunately, unless some footloose type of industry (which would use the available work force already in the area) can be attracted to the area, any new industry brought in is liable to bring more people for which services must be provided. There is, of course, the alternative of raising the recreation segment of the Service industry to its full potential. This would probably broaden the tax base to some extent, and the added facilities could also probably be staffed by persons already in the area.

Neither county has any indebtedness, except for school bonds. However, in Grant County, this is an appreciable amount, being very close to one-half million dollars or slightly less than five percent of the total real property assessed valuation.

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In Wheeler County, the school indebtedness is under $25 thousand and is expected to be cut to $13.5 thousand by 1968.

Both counties have some income from sales of National Forest Service timber. In Wheeler County this income is negligible, because of the low harvest of such timber. However, it does amount to a sizeable item in the Grant County budget. County tax rates in both counties are below the average for all Oregon counties. However, in Grant County the rate is just barely below the average, whereas in Wheeler County the rate is only a little more than half of the state average. On the other hand, Grant County does maintain some services for the taxpayers that are not offered in Wheeler County. Even so, the services provided in either county are pretty much minimal. City taxes are minimal throughout the area, but there is a tendency toward generous valuation of both land and improvements in the corporate areas, as opposed to the valuation of the same assets outside the corporate areas.

Government in both counties is of the hard-headed, common sense variety, and appears to be conducted on the most economical basis possible. If, in some cases, it appears to be too economical, it must be kept in mind that local government in the State of Oregon (or even state government, for that matter) never has much to say about the amount or type of expenditures to be made. The peculiar initiative and petition laws of the state pretty much leave government expenditures at the local level up to the voters, rather than to local or state government.

POPULATION TRENDS

The high point in Grant County population was reached in 1954, at which time there were an estimated 9,270 persons residing in the county. Wheeler County population peaked at 3,600 in 1951. Since the peak years, the population trends in both counties has been slowly, but consistently down. At the time of the Federal Census in 1960, the population in Grant County was fixed at 7,726 and in Wheeler County at 2,722. Estimates for the two counties, made by the Population Research Center of Oregon, for the year 1965 place the population of Grant County at 7,600 and of Wheeler County at 1,800. In round terms, the population of Wheeler County in 1965 was down 50 percent from the peak of 1951 and that of Grant County was down 18 percent from the peak of 1954. During the two respective periods the population of the entire state increased by 30 percent and 19 percent.

The Household Study conducted by the Smaller Communities Services Program located 7,640 inhabitants in Grant County, and 1,768 in Wheeler County in June of 1967. The total for the two counties would be substantially the same as the estimate of the Population Research Center for July 1965, although Wheeler County shows a small additional loss, and Grant County a slight gain.

Population losses in both counties are reflective of a dwindling economy. In Grant County, the population losses attendant upon a partial loss of manufacturing employment, were offset to some extent by gains in other sectors of the economy, whereas in Wheeler County there appears to have been no offsetting factor.

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A comparison of the 1960 population by sex and age groups for both counties with that found in 1967 shows no substantial change in the composition in either county. The percentage of females in the total population is slightly higher, as is the percentage of those above the normal retirement age of 65. However, in both counties the percentage of persons in the vital 18 through 44 year-old group is down.

There seems no doubt that most of the 1960-67 population loss in both counties was caused by out-migration, principally of males, in the 21 to 34 year age groups. This is not unusual in sparsely settled areas such as Grant and Wheeler Counties, where industrial growth does not keep pace with the labor force entrants. There is no foreseeable end to the out-migrant trend in the younger segment of the population because there is no presently foreseeable increase in the number of wage and salary jobs to the extent necessary to provide employment for the yearly additions to the labor force, as they come of working age.

There are no migrants in the county, although here, as elsewhere, that part of the population engaged in the lumber industry tends to be semi-nomadic. Strangely enough, there is also some turnover in that small segment of the population engaged in professional work. However, in relation to total population, the percentage of turnover is very small.

COMPARISON OF POPULATION DATA FOR WHEELER AND GRANT C
1960 - 1967

	GRANT COUNTY	
	1960	1967
TOTAL POPULATION	7,726	7,640
Male	4,025	3,845
Female	3,701	3,795
1 to 15 years of age	2,671	2,668
Male	1,368	1,322
Female	1,303	1,346
16 and 17 years	269	270
Male	141	137
Female	128	133
18 to 20 years	227	217
Male	115	98
Female	112	119
21 to 24 years	350	332
Male	160	143
Female	190	189
25 to 34 years	894	868
Male	428	405
Female	466	463
35 to 44 years	1,021	992
Male	522	474
Female	499	518
45 to 54 years	936	929
Male	533	520
Female	403	409
55 to 64 years	669	663
Male	368	356
Female	301	307
65 and over	689	701
Male	390	390
Female	299	311

COMPARISON OF POPULATION DATA FOR WHEELER AND GRANT COUNTIES
1960 - 1967

TABLE I

GRANT COUNTY		WHEELER COUNTY	
1960	1967	1960	1967
7,726	7,640	2,722	1,768
4,025	3,845	1,393	887
3,701	3,795	1,329	881
2,671	2,668	934	616
1,368	1,322	436	318
1,303	1,346	498	298
269	270	112	72
141	137	55	35
128	133	57	37
227	217	110	71
115	98	52	24
112	119	58	47
350	332	137	88
160	143	67	40
190	189	70	48
894	868	327	210
428	405	166	94
466	463	161	116
1,021	992	353	227
522	474	188	109
499	518	165	118
936	929	317	203
533	520	181	105
403	409	136	98
669	663	238	153
368	356	140	90
301	307	98	63
689	701	194	128
390	390	108	72
299	311	86	56

AGRICULTURE

Considerably less than one-half of the nearly four million acres of Grant and Wheeler Counties are in private ownership. Of the acreages that are in private ownership, only a little over three percent are under intensive cultivation; nearly six thousand acres in Grant County and approximately 500 acres in Wheeler County.

Another approximate 70,000 acres are suitable for cultivation, but all have limiting factors of one kind or another, such as alkalinity, wetness, etc. Most of the area is covered by volcanic materials of one kind or another, chiefly laid down in the tertiary period. Tillable soils, particularly in the John Day valley, are generally located on alluvial fan and are derived from a variety of materials which vary in composition, depth and texture from one area to another. Except on the flood plains, the soils are quite generally shallow.

Close to 40,000 acres of crop land are under irrigation, but the majority of this is in forage crops, generally for use as a supplement to summer range in livestock production. Because of the varying types of soils, there is a wide variety of problems in both soil treatment and irrigation. There is an average frost-free growing season of slightly more than four months, which runs as little as two months at the higher elevations.

THE CROPS

Perennially, livestock and livestock products furnish more than 90 percent of the gross agricultural income of Grant and Wheeler Counties. Other than livestock, only hay and farm forest products produce any sizeable cash income. Oddly enough, potatoes, which were the start of agriculture in the upper John Day Basin, now have cash sales of less than $1,000 annually.

From the standpoint of gross income, hay is usually the leading crop, but the total value tends to fluctuate with

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the amount of precipitation and growing season. Average yield per acre in most years are slightly more than two tons for alfalfa; 1.5 tons for clover mixtures and slightly less for all other types of hay. In addition, most of the hay lands are also pastured and offer additional forage other than that produced for a cash crop.

Farm forest products rank next to hay as a cash crop. Gross income from this crop has remained relatively stable since 1960 at a figure roughly one-third of the gross in 1954. In 1966 (the last year for which data are available) farm forest products accounted for nearly one-third of the total gross crop income.

Tree fruits have moved up from one-sixth to one-fourth of the cash crop income in the past seven years. The value of this crop also fluctuates severely but no data is at hand for the reasons. Despite the increasing importance of fruit in the cash crop category, no mention is made in the agricultural reports of the area; perhaps because of the overshadowing importance of the livestock industry. To the onlooker, fruit would appear to offer a reasonable possibility of a well-paid diversification in what amounts almost to a single crop area. At least, the one small orchard area (near Kimberly) visited by the Mobile Team of the Smaller Communities Services Program looked in excellent condition and is reportedly a money maker. Moreover, fruit can be established on some of the slopes which offer harvesting problems to the traditional hay.

Another oddity to the objective onlooker is the fact that garden truck is not a reported cash crop in the area. Considering the distance from other producing areas and the consequent transportation costs, it seems strange that no attempt is made to grow and market fresh produce locally. Certainly the growing season is long enough for most of the vegetables and the soil appears to be well adapted, to judge from the appearance of some of the family garden plots.

AGRICULTURE (Cont.)

So far as could be ascertained, no experiments have been made or are in progress with a view to diversification of income producing crops in the area.

LIVESTOCK and livestock products are the source of 94 percent of the gross cash income and beef cattle and calves account for almost 95 percent of the livestock income. Sheep and lambs account for less than two percent and turkeys slightly more than one percent of the gross livestock income. Hogs and dairy products each accounted for about one-half of one percent in the last year (1966) for which complete data are available, but, prior to that hogs accounted for around three percent, alone.

There appears to be some degree of difference in opinions as to the best future course for agricultural operators of the area. A co-operative study prepared by U.S.D.A. and the Oregon State Water Resources Board in 1961 indicates a belief that a considerable portion of the summer range area is still over-grazed, or has not yet recovered from serious over-grazing prior to the 1930's. This report also expressed the belief that the available range land would support nearly double the present number of cattle if it were gotten into proper shape and thereafter properly managed. This might be entirely true, but it is extremely doubtful that the croplands of Grant and Wheeler Counties could possibly grow the amount of forage that would be needed to winter twice the number of stock now held. In addition, there is an implied recommendation in the U.S.D.A. report that (a) the number of cattle now grazing be temporarily further reduced until the range is put in shape and (b) that the grazing season be permanently reduced in some areas as a part of scientific range management. The report places the time necessary to put the present range in good shape at 10 to 15 years.

Reports of the Grant County Extension Service of range trials over the past 20 years also indicate range forage production could be approximately doubled. In addition,

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The recommendations of the Extension Service also go into such basic elements of farm management as efficient use of irrigation water (among other things) and appear in many respects excellent. It seems worth noting that one of the principal shortcomings found was the reluctance of the ranchers to keep such business records as might enable them to know at all times which of their input dollars were bringing the best return.

Basically, the problem of ranchers in the area appears to be that of getting the most pounds of beef from an acre of land. This, again, is broken into two separate problems: (a) getting the greatest possible number of pounds of beef from a ton of forage and (b) getting the greatest possible amount of forage per acre. If (a) is inevitably concerned with the efficiency of herd type in transmuting forage to meat, it is just as inevitable that (b) must be concerned with getting the greatest amount of forage possible for the dollar invested. It is difficult to see how this objective can be achieved without controlled experimentation, involving accurate record keeping.

One of the necessities for increased agricultural production would, of course, be increased water for irrigation. This subject is more fully covered in the section of this report devoted to natural resources; hence, the mention here will be brief. It does seem worth mentioning that, in addition to the need for more water, there is an unquestionable need for more efficient use of the water that is presently available. Despite the known fact that the nutrition content of forage is best achieved by the minimum application of water, there is still a tendency toward overuse.

Most of all, it appears that the farm operators of the area need to consider a possible partial shift from the traditional one-cow-to-the-acre-of-hay to some other, and perhaps more profitable, crop.

TABLE II

ESTIMATED GROSS FARM INCOME
GRANT AND WHEELER COUNTIES
1965 and 1966

	1965		1966	
LIVESTOCK	GRANT	WHEELER	GRANT	WHEELER
Cattle and Calves	$4,354,000	$1,223,000	$4,610,000	$1,413,000
Hogs	135,000	31,000	27,000	42,000
Sheep and Lambs	91,000	194,000	81,000	176,000
Dairy Products	21,000	7,000	30,000	6,000
Chickens	6,000	1,000	7,000	1,000
Turkeys	47,000	0	58,000	0
Eggs and Chickens	14,000	10,000	13,000	9,000
All Other Livestock & Poultry	45,000	90,000	44,000	78,000
TOTAL Livestock & Products	$4,713,000	$1,556,000	$4,870,000	$1,725,000
CROPS				
All Grains	$ 40,000	$ 260,000	$ 16,000	$ 172,000
All Hay Crops	117,000	43,000	108,000	62,000
Grass and Legume Seeds	0	0	0	0
Tree Fruits and Nuts	69,000	1,000	71,000	1,000
Small Fruits	2,000	0	2,000	0
Vegetables	0	4,000	0	0
Farm Forest Products	85,000	120,000	85,000	120,000
TOTAL Crops	$ 313,000	$ 425,000	$ 284,000	$ 355,000
TOTAL LIVESTOCK AND CROPS	$5,026,000	$1,981,000	$5,184,000	$2,080,000

Source: Reports Agricultural Extension Service, Grant and Wheeler Counties.

THE NONAGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES

MANUFACTURING

LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS

Slightly more than one of every three nonagricultural wage and salary workers in Grant and Wheeler Counties are employed in logging and wood products manufacture. In addition, another approximate ten percent of the year around wage and salary jobs are in forestry management, but these jobs are treated under Government, since approximately 95 percent of the timber is managed by the U. S. Forest Service. There are also a considerable number of seasonal jobs in forestry management, but a good percentage of these jobs are filled on a contract basis, and hence, not considered as being wage and salary work.

Approximately one-third of the jobs in lumber manufacture in the two counties require no particular training or education, and another one-third require no training beyond general familiarization with the work situation, something which can be gained in a matter of two or three weeks. Most of the timber being logged is pine or other relatively small diameter species and does not require the degree of skill in either falling or rigging out that is needed in the larger fir species which are common in the western part of Oregon.

There are no really modern mills in the area, although the one plant at Kinzua is far from being outdated. Most

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AERIAL PHOTO OF KINZUA LUMBER CO, WHEELER COUNTY
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LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS (Cont.)

of the lumber milled throughout the area is processed through the primary stages, only, and is shipped elsewhere for remanufacture. Because of the lack of modern equipment, there is a maximum use of manpower for the type of product. The use of manpower could be cut by the installation of modern equipment. It could also be increased by the addition of remanufacturing equipment. It is a little difficult to understand why no steps have been taken toward complete processing of the raw materials in the area.

Lack of a hardboard plant, or of a similar facility for utilization of wood wastes is a handicap to the lumber producers, but there appears no chance of such a facility being set up because of a lack of water supply during a major portion of the year.

Of the one-third of the jobs in the lumber industry which do require vocational training, education beyond high school, or some other type of preparation, approximately one-half are in the skilled trades, involving either operation or maintenance of fairly complex machinery. Reports secured by the Mobile Team from employers of the area indicate that most of the employers give little or no thought to education or vocational training when hiring for these jobs, but that they do place considerable reliance on on-the-job training. Ordinarily, it was found that the average worker could, by personal application and diligence, gain a chance to learn even the more difficult jobs, simply by remaining with the same employer for any length of time.

The remaining one-sixth of the jobs in the lumber industry which require some degree of education or training beyond high school are largely in the clerical, technical and management fields. For these jobs it was found that most of the employers tended to be fairly stringent in their hiring specifications. For clerical workers, for instance, there is a generally recognized requirement of high school education which included at least two years of commercial courses, plus at least one year of experience, or, in lieu of experience, completion of business college, or some combination amounting to the equivalent.

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There were no expectations among presently operating employers of any degree of expansion in the immediate future. However, it is worth noting that approximately 20 percent of those now employed are in the upper age brackets, which would indicate a sizeable replacement need in the near future. Incidentally, the lumber industry of the area operates largely on pine and some of the cheaper species and so is in a much better position so far as continuity of operations is concerned than the fir lumber industry of coastal Oregon. The question mark with regard to the future of the industry lies in the fact that only a small percentage of the merchantable timber of the area is in private ownership. Availability of publicly owned timber is dependent on policy set by individuals who are not always interested in fostering the growth or continuance of lumber processing, exclusively. Moreover, even under the best of conditions, the allowable cut of publicly owned timber will not provide for any expansion of the present industry in the Grant-Wheeler area.

OTHER MANUFACTURING

Manufacturing other than lumber and wood products in the Grant-Wheeler area is confined to two newspapers and a negligible amount of food processing. Total employment in this segment is only an average 35 workers, about half of whom are in the skilled or professional occupations. No expansion is presently forecast in this industrial grouping.

G O V E R N M E N T

A fairly close second to manufacturing in the total employment picture is the Government sector. For the purposes of clarity, this segment is divided in this report into education and noneducation.

(A) Education - In the two counties, education provided a total of 239 jobs, of which 174 are in the professional occupations. Generally speaking, these jobs require a baccalaureate degree as a minimum. However, the report for the 1964-1965 school year (the latest available) shows that only 80 percent of those employed had such a degree. This would indicate the field to be open for job seekers

with a degree, although no expansion is presently indicated. The 65 nonteaching jobs in education range in skills from the clerical to kitchen helper in the school cafeterias. Except for the few clerical positions, there were no education or experience requirements stated by any of the various districts. No expansion is presently expected.

In both the professional and the classified there are two factors indicating a sizeable future replacement need: more than half of those employed are females and a sizeable group of both the males and females are approaching the retirement age.

(B) Government, Noneducation - Holding, as it does, more than 20 percent of the total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the two counties, noneducational government owes its abnormal position chiefly to the presence in the area of the headquarters of the Malheur National Forest. Harvesting of timber from this forest is of comparatively recent beginnings and much of the work now in progress by the staff is being done for the first time. Too, a considerable area is involved even though the latest completed inventory (1958) showed only a little over 14 billion board feet of sawtimber scattered throughout the area. The work of establishing an allowable annual cut based on regenerative cycles is even now being gone over with a view to possible change. It seems likely that a fairly large staff will continue to be employed for some time to come.

A second factor engendering a disproportionate amount of government employment is highway maintenance. Because of sparse population there is a high ratio of road miles to be maintained in relation to total population. Finally there is the fact that the whole area has been the object of intensive study and field work by several different agencies, both state and federal, chiefly in connection with the water resource.

Except for some of the clerical occupations, there are no stated qualifications for hire by local government. The various federal and state agencies cover a wide range of jobs, with consequent wide range of hiring specifications. Approximately 35 percent of the state and federal jobs are in the professional or technical occupations and

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require either a college degree or the equivalent. Around 15 percent of the jobs are in the highly skilled categories and demand some degree of vocational training or on-the-job training, usually with the requirement of a minimum of high school education as well. About the same percentage are in the clerical occupations, (chiefly for women) and have varying requirements of training and/or experience in addition to completion of high school. The remainder of the jobs are for entry workers, and involve little or no skills or training.

There are no known plans for employment expansion. Less than ten percent of the employed workers are female, but approximately 15 percent of those now employed are either above or approaching retirement age. This would indicate that while no new jobs will be added, there will probably be an average replacement need in the next five years. Most of the new hires will probably be effected at the entry level. In addition, many of the forest service jobs will probably be filled by transfer from other areas. By and large only the seasonal jobs with this agency are filled locally.

T R A D E

Third largest industry of the area in point of total employment, Trade uses only an approximate 13 percent of the total wage and salary workers of the area. This low percentage of the total jobs is partly accounted for by the number of small, family owned or operated establishments and partly by the fact that a good portion of the spendable income of the area is used in purchases outside the area.

More than two-thirds of the wage and salary jobs in Trade are held by females, and approximately 15 percent of all those employed are above the age of 55. These factors would indicate a fairly high replacement need, but no amount of employment expansion is forecast by presently operating employers. Approximately 40 percent of the employment in Trade is in the service occupations and almost exclusively female. None of the employers interviewed by the Mobile Team indicated a requirement of training or experience for the service occupations. By

(Continued next page)

and large, for those jobs requiring some degree of skill, the employers state a preference for hiring persons with no training or experience, and teaching the elements of the job to them. This same attitude of the employers held true for the sales occupations although here there was generally the requirement of high school education, as a minimum. In the clerical and skilled jobs, hiring requirements are somewhat more stringent. Even with the skilled jobs (such as auto mechanics with dealerships) there is a tendency toward on-the-job training (not indentured apprenticeships) as the best method of acquiring a skilled worker. Consequently, most of the skilled jobs are filled through promotion, and new hires are effected at the entry level.

S E R V I C E

The Service industry holds only a little over six percent of the total nonagricultural wage and salary jobs of the area. As with Trade, this is partly accounted for by the number of small,owner operated establishments. In addition, some of the employment which would ordinarily be a part of the Service industry is lodged in other industries. For example, as the individual ranches of the area have been combined into larger and larger holdings, many of the operators have found it more economical to maintain their own repair shops. Also, some of the government agencies have found it feasible to maintain their own shops. In the field of personal services, there is a general tendency to nonusage of the facilities that are available. Finally, some of the specialized professional and medical services are absent because the sparseness of the population precludes their establishment in the area. For instance, there are no physicians or practicing pharmacists in Wheeler County.

The Service industry, even in the face of present apparent planning, offers probably the best possibility for employment expansion in the area. It is certain that there will be some expansion in the medical service fields, because of Medicare. While in the area, the Mobile Team completed arrangements for an on-the-job training program, and made several individual referrals to vocational training in the medical services field.

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sion may still be some distance into the future, depending more on the direction and amount of local effort than anything else. Added employment will probably be related more to the Service occupations than any other type of work.

T R A N S P O R T A T I O N, C O M M U N I C A T I O N S A N D U T I L I T I E S

This combined industrial group accounts for less than five percent of the total nonagricultural and salary employment of the area. Telephone communications in Wheeler County are locally owned and operated, but most of Grant County is covered by one concern with business and operations offices in Baker County. There is also one radio station operating in Grant County, with excellent coverage over most of the upper John Day Basin. There are no television stations, but viewing is available through a locally operated cable system in part of the area. Altogether, employment in communications is very light, with no expansion projected, and only minimal replacement indicated.

Although the service area covered encompasses a land area larger than some states in the union, the number of workers employed in furnishing power are very few. As with communications, a large part of the essential operational work is carried on outside the county.

Transportation employment is considerably less than might be expected in a remote area. Actually, some of the goods sold in the area are transported in by jobbers from other areas. Some local distributors also provide their own transportation of goods. One branch line railroad does enter the area in northeastern Wheeler County, but the employees reside in another county, as do the employees of another branch line entering southern Grant County. The only common carrier passenger transportation is by bus, with one schedule daily, and no employees in the county. Charter plane service is available from an excellent airfield near John Day, but most of the field traffic is from privately owned and operated planes.

There is considerable traffic in the transportation of logs and lumber, but this is handled mostly by the lumber companies, rather than by common carriers. No em-

ployment expansion is presently forecast in either transportation or utilities. Most of those employed in the industries being male and fairly young, only a minimum amount of replacement need is to be expected.

FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE

This division accounts for very little of the total employment in the area. There are only two banks: one a medium sized independent bank in Grant County, and one a small branch of a statewide bank in Wheeler County. Both Real Estate and Insurance are largely a matter of owner operated businesses, with no employees, or perhaps with unpaid family help. At the present time, there appears no likelihood of any employment expansion in this division, although self-employment may possibly increase. Such hires as are made are usually in the entry clerical occupations, with positions in the more skilled categories being filled by promotion from within. Hiring specifications are seldom stringent, with more emphasis being on work attitudes than knowledge of the job.

CONSTRUCTION

Contract Construction as such does not offer very much in the way of employment in the two-county area. Aside from some road realignment which was being handled by an outside the area firm, and some trail building by the U.S. Forest Service, there were no construction projects of any size under way at the time of the study. Scheduled to start in the near future (at the time of the study) were two small projects, with a probable cost in the neighborhood of three quarters of a million dollars. However, past experience indicates most of those employed will be brought into the area by the successful contract bidders.

It also seems likely that at least one major project in the form of a dam on the John Day River will eventually be constructed. Present indications are that the site will be in Wheeler County and, again, that the project

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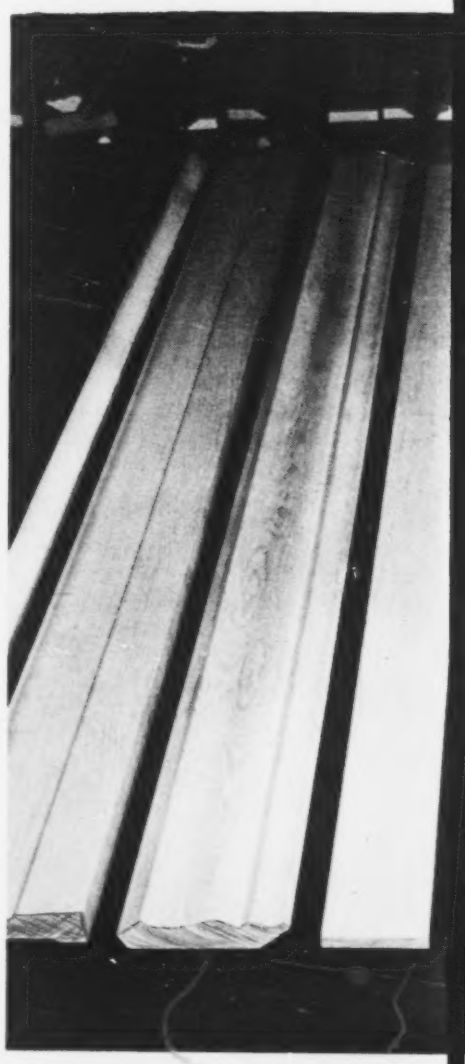

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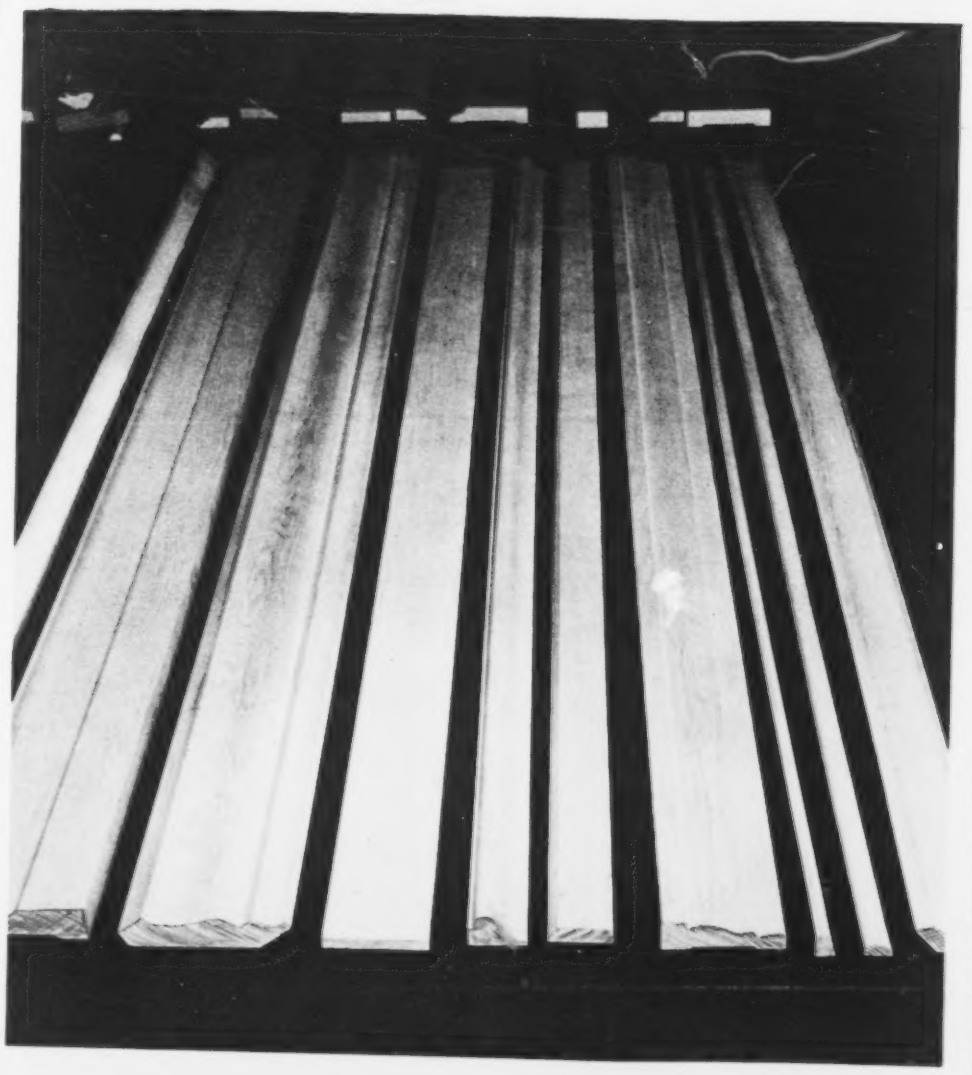

FINISH MOLDINGS PRODUCED IN WHEELER COUNTY. THE QUALITY AND BEAUTY OF THESE PRODUCTS KEEP THEM IN DEMAND.

TABLE III

DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT
BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS, SEX AND AGE
GRANT & WHEELER COUNTIES

MAJOR OCCUPATIONAL GROUP	Total Employment In Group	% of Total Empl.	Females in Group	Females % of Group	Under 22	22 to 34	35 t 44
NONFARM SELF-EMPLOYED	260	7.8	46	17.7	0	32	79
FARM OPERATORS	283	8.5	27	9.5	3	44	68
UNPAID FAMILY WORK	109	3.3	81	74.3	57	26	13
FARM WAGE WORKERS, YEAR AROUND	164	4.9	0	--	29	53	18
FARM WORKERS, SEASONAL	222	6.6	14	6.3	179	0	12
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY							
PROFESSIONAL, TECH. & MANAGERIAL	506	15.1	216	42.7	11	92	171
CLERICAL	189	5.7	157	83.1	12	82	49
SALES	103	3.1	41	39.8	11	16	31
SERVICE	199	6.0	117	58.8	28	66	43
HAND PROCESS WORKERS	409	12.2	33	8.1	39	142	118
MACHINE PROCESS WORKERS	366	10.9	2	0.5	2	106	106
BENCH WORK	38	1.1	4	10.5	0	8	19
STRUCTURAL	184	5.5	0	--	3	44	74
MISCELLANEOUS	311	9.3	13	4.2	14	94	90
TOTAL	3,343	100.0	751	22.5	388	805	891

DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT
BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS, SEX AND AGE
GRANT & WHEELER COUNTIES

nt p	% of Total Empl.	Females in Group	Females % of Group	Under 22	22 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 & Over
	7.8	46	17.7	0	32	79	81	53	15
	8.5	27	9.5	3	44	68	79	56	33
	3.3	81	74.3	57	26	13	5	8	0
	4.9	0	--	29	53	18	42	19	3
	6.6	14	6.3	179	0	12	16	15	0
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY									
	15.1	216	42.7	11	92	171	123	101	8
	5.7	157	83.1	12	82	49	33	12	1
	3.1	41	39.8	11	16	31	21	22	2
	6.0	117	58.8	28	66	43	42	19	1
	12.2	33	8.1	39	142	118	64	44	2
	10.9	2	0.5	2	106	106	89	63	0
	1.1	4	10.5	0	8	19	7	3	1
	5.5	0	--	3	44	74	37	26	0
	9.3	13	4.2	14	94	90	64	46	3
	100.0	751	22.5	388	805	891	703	487	69

EMPLOYMENT DISTRIBUTION BY INDUSTRY, SEX AND
(NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY JOBS)
GRANT AND WHEELER COUNTIES

INDUSTRY GROUP	Total Wage And Salary Employment	Females in Group	Under 22	22 to 34	35 to 44	45 t 54
CONSTRUCTION	45	2	3	6	18	11
MANUFACTURING	955[1/]	81	63	274	245	185
TRANSP., COMM., & UTILITIES	92	18	5	32	23	19
TRADE	303	214	26	107	67	69
FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE	36	22	1	14	13	2
SERVICE	148	78	8	29	81	14
GOVERNMENT (Education)	239	126	2	47	106	59
GOVERNMENT (Noneducation)	487	42	12	141	148	121
TOTAL	2,305	583	120	650	701	480

1/ It should be noted that the employment figures shown in Table III and Table I ending June 17, 1967. Subsequent to this date, approximately 90 jobs in wood been lost in Grant County. Consequently, the tabulation does not reflect the ing employment.

MPLOYMENT DISTRIBUTION BY INDUSTRY, SEX AND AGE
(NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY JOBS)
GRANT AND WHEELER COUNTIES

TABLE IV

Females in Group	Under 22	22 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 & Over	Self-Emp. Nonag.
2	3	6	18	11	6	1	61
81	63	274	245	185	187	1	11
18	5	32	23	19	13	0	14
214	26	107	67	69	33	1	103
22	1	14	13	2	4	2	23
78	8	29	81	14	11	5	48
126	2	47	106	59	23	2	0
42	12	141	148	121	59	6	0
583	120	650	701	480	336	18	260

ment figures shown in Table III and Table IV are those for the week
to this date, approximately 90 jobs in wood products processing have
quently, the tabulation does not reflect the present total manufactur-

SPENDABLE INCOME

Total reported income from all sources in the Grant-Wheeler Counties area for the year 1965 (the last for which complete data are available) was $17,529,638. This was split $14,079,997 for Grant County and $3,449,641 for Wheeler County. On the basis of population as found by the Household Study conducted by the Mobile Team, this would indicate an approximate $6,984 in income per household, or $1,842.90 per capita in Grant County, and $5,080 income per household, or $1,951 per capita in Wheeler County. After allowing an average 25 percent of all income for taxes of all kinds, the spendable income of the two county area would be approximately $13,147,000, of which the Grant County share would be $10,560,000 and the Wheeler County share $2,587,000. It seems probable that the total income was up in 1966 in both counties, but will likely show a slight decline in 1967, because of the loss of nonagricultural industry in both counties.

No firm figures are available for retail sales in either county, but from estimates secured on a voluntary basis from some of the major retailers, it appears that the total retail sales for personal consumption in the two-county area amount to only a little more than one-third of the spendable income. This does not, of course, take into account purchases made for resale, as in the case of foodstuffs purchased for use in restaurants, or purchases made for use in businesses, as in the case of

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rolling stock, gas and oil used in the lumber business, etc. It therefore seems a fairly well established fact that a large percentage of the spendable income of the two-county area is being used for purchases made out of the area. By and large these out of the area purchases run to clothing, automobiles, furniture, etc., but there is also a not inconsiderable amount spent on non-consumptive items, such as amusement, recreation, lodging (out of the area) and other incidentals.

In order that the issue may not be confused, it should be noted that total retail sales in the two-county area were approximately $9.5 million in 1965, or slightly more than double the estimated sales for personal use. The total, however, includes sales of farm machinery and equipment as well as many other items purchased for use in business.

To put it plainly, the people of the area simply do not buy at home, except for the day-to-day necessities. Much of this out of the area buying is the outgrowth of the long established custom of the cattlemen of the area in making a trip to Portland or Boise, coincidental to the sale of cattle, and spending the proceeds of the sale while away. This has had the effect of hampering the establishment of a retail trade industry in the area, and today, because of lack of shopper choice, other people follow the custom of going out of the area for major purchases. Despite the lack of market, the Mobile Team found that many of the items consistently purchased out of the area could be purchased as cheaply in the area; in some cases even cheaper. In trying to analyze the reasons for out of the area buying, the Mobile Team arrived at the conclusion that much of the buying was used simply as an excuse for a trip to the more populous areas, rather than being incidental to a trip made for other purposes. If this conclusion is correct, then no amount of campaigning for buying at home is likely to succeed.

* * * * * * * *

NATURAL RESOURCES

Grant and Wheeler Counties have many natural assets, some of which are peculiarly their own. Not all of the natural resources have been fully explored, nor have all of the more self-evident ones been developed or exploited to the fullest extent possible.

WATER

Because it is the one natural resource of paramount importance to every sector of the economy in the two counties, the water resource was given the first and continuing major attention of the Small Communities Services Mobile Team. It is not possible to fully treat in this report all of the information which has been developed through continuing studies over a period of many years by many agencies, concerning this resource. There are, however, several basic points made in practically all of the reports made available to the team. These data are here condensed to the barest of essentials, with references to the full reports from which they are condensed:

1. Except for the Silvies River Basin in south central Grant County, the total surface water yield in the two-county area is probably great enough, if properly stored and managed, to take care of any present or future water needs. The Silvies Basin yield within the limits of Grant County, if used within the county, would also probably suffice for most of the needs of that part of the basin. Unfortunately for the arable portion of the basin in Grant County, the yield has long ago been over-appropriated through downstream rights in Harney County.

2. So far as is known, the supply of ground water in the area is limited. Actually, there is no record of any intensive study of the ground waters. However, both the geology and the topography of the area would appear

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NATURAL RESOURCES

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ply of ground water in there is no record of nd waters. However, both of the area would appear to be adverse to any considerable amount of underground storage. Notwithstanding, this water source is sufficient for rural domestic and livestock needs, as well as some of the municipal systems of the area.

3. Potential benefits from the surface water yield in the upper John Day Basin are not being realized. The degree to which they are not being realized depends to some extent on the specific benefit. For instance, the irrigation potential is approximately 60 percent realized; the fish production potential is approximately 20 percent realized and the recreation potential (strictly dependent upon availability of water) is about 10 percent realized. And almost without exception, the failure to realize the potential is caused by the seasonal irregularity of the stream flows.

In short, there is an oversupply of water in the streams of the area during roughly one-half of the year, and an undersupply during approximately one-third of the year, in all normal years. The undersupply for all potential usages is generally critical during the months from July through September, and for longer periods in some years. The oversupply goes downstream in the form of unused runoff during the months from October through May of normal years, usually doing some damage in the form of erosion or saturation of the poorly drained areas in the flood plains. Fortunately, the damages do not usually involve urban areas, although some of the towns in Grant County are occasionally damaged by the flood waters.

4. The only possible remedy to all of the present water problems is the construction of runoff storage reservoirs in the upper part of the John Day River Basin, where most of the runoff originates. This may be difficult to do.

(Continued next page)

NATURAL RESOURCES (Cont.)

There are plenty of sites in all of the sub-basins, but very few where reservoir construction is feasible insofar as subsequent consumptive use of the stored waters is concerned. Of the few feasible sites, three are in Grant County, and one is in Wheeler County. Additional sites are under investigation, but no data are presently available as to the usable storage which could be developed.

It is unfortunate that the criteria used by agencies charged with the location and development of reservoir sites are extremely narrow, and frequently do not take into account the total benefit which could be derived from a proposed project.

5. In addition to runoff impoundment, there is a serious need for improved management of the watersheds of the upper John Day River Basin. Presently, much of the watershed allocated to summer range is over-grazed, with only poor to fair ground cover. This naturally speeds up the runoff process, and hinders the retention of the surface water necessary for replenishment of another resource: timber. In addition to the over-grazing, much of the ground cover has been disturbed by poor logging practices in some areas, poorly constructed roads, and in one case, by an ill-conceived and poorly executed attempt to remove excess brush from a part of the range. Some steps have already been taken, particularly in the direction of bringing back the vegetation on the grazing lands. However, there is still much to be done, if the watersheds are to be put back in proper condition.

6. Lastly, there needs to be better management of the water that is available for consumptive use, during the time when it is available. Irrigated lands in the two counties run to a variety of soil types, and cannot always be handled by the same methods of irrigation. Although a considerable portion of the held water rights are never used, there is still a tendency among many ranchers to over-irrigate, this to the detriment of their crops. The whole subject of water rights use appears to stand in need of review; particularly the mining rights.

TIMBER

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TIMBER

For an area having such a high percentage of its land surface in National Forest as Grant and Wheeler Counties, there is surprisingly little information available concerning the timber resource. The latest available inventory of publicly owned timber in Grant County was prepared in 1958; the latest for Wheeler County in 1953.

Data for these years, prepared by the National Forest Service, indicate that in 1958, 1,689,400 acres (or 58 percent of the total acreage) of Grant County was in commercial forest land. Of the total forest acreage, 320,000 acres, or 19 percent, were reported to have been in private ownership. Contrary to this, data procured from the Oregon Tax Commission indicate less than 250,000 acres of privately held land in Grant County were in commercial forest.

The 1953 report of the Forest Service also indicates that 356,580 (32 percent) of the total 1,102,130 acres in Wheeler County were in commercial forest. Of the total commercial forest 204,040 acres, or 57 percent, were reported to have been in private ownership. Oregon Tax Commission data for Wheeler County indicate only a little over 127,000 acres in privately held commercial forest lands. The discrepancy is explained by the Tax Commission as being caused by the Forest Service classifying some acreages in juniper as commercial timber, whereas the Tax Commission does not consider this species as of commercial value.

The question immediately arises as to how many of the 1,366,800 acres of publicly owned land classed in the Forest Service report as being in commercial timber, are also in juniper.

The same report referred to above also shows approximately 12.2 billion board feet of commercial sawtimber on publicly owned lands and 1.3 billion feet on the privately owned lands in Grant County in 1958. The report for Wheeler County shows 2.14 billion board feet of publicly owned and 1.47 billion feet of privately owned timber in Wheeler County in 1953.

Inventories of the Oregon State Tax Commission show slightly more than 448 million board feet of privately owned commercial timber in Grant County in 1963. This is down 903 million from the Forest Service figure of 1958. The recorded harvest of private timber during the 1958-63 period was only a little more than half that amount.

Inventories of the Oregon Tax Commission also show 200.5 million board feet of merchantable timber in Wheeler County in 1964. This is down approximately 1.3 billion feet from the Forest Service figure for 1953. Records of the harvest from 1953 through 1964 in Wheeler County are incomplete: the years 1954, 1961, 1962 and 1963 are missing. However, the reports for seven years which are available show a total harvest of only 203 million board feet. Considering the possibilities of consigned use, it is a little difficult to believe that private timber was harvested at the rate of a quarter of a billion board feet per year during the four years for which no report was available.

Granted that the present inventories of the Tax Commission are correct - and it appears they are, because of the diminishing harvest each year - the total privately owned sawtimber in the two counties is only a little over 581 million board feet. The latest figures available indicate this supply was being harvested at the rate of approximately 50 million board feet per year. Certainly, at this rate, the private timber could not be considered a reliable source of supply for very long.

The total board footage of sawtimber on publicly owned lands in Grant County in 1958 was placed at 12.2 billion board feet by the Forest Service report. This agency also places the Wheeler County total for 1953 at 2.7 billion board feet. The presently allowable cut of publicly owned timber in Wheeler County is not known, but the cut in Grant County has been placed at 170 million board feet, pending completion of an inventory now in process. In view of the conflicts in all the various reports as to acreages, timber volumes, etc., it does not seem wise to go beyond the presently allowable cut in estimating the resources of the two counties. Certainly there are some privately owned volumes which could be used to supplement the publicly owned timber. But the private supply could be reduced to zero by three or four years cutting. Secondly, even if the private resourc
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MINERALS

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CHROME

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even if the private resource should be carefully husbanded over a long period, there is no assurance that the sustained yield from public lands will remain at 170 million. It is a little difficult to reconcile all of the factors: total supply, 12.2 billion board feet; annual cut 170 million board feet; cutting cycles 105 to 125 years. Certainly some of the old growth now standing should be taken out at a higher rate than the regenerative cycle will allow. But how much there is of this type of timber, and how long it can be used to boost the cut is problematical.

MINERALS

There is a tendency in some quarters to consider the mineral resources of Grant and Wheeler Counties as being exhausted. In reality this is far from being true.

For instance, there are several known deposits of gold, which cannot be profitably worked because the price of gold is still artificially tied to the productions costs of the 1930-35 era. Even with the present limitation in price, there are certainly some properties that might possibly still be producing, except for the forced closures during World War II.

One of the unpleasant facts of the minerals industry happens to be that it generally costs more to bring a deep mine back after a period of abandonment than to develop a new property.

CHROME

There are also known and partially developed deposits of chrome in commercial grade, which are not being worked because of a lack of market. Any change in world conditions which might result in curtailment of present imports of this mineral would probably also result in immediate re-opening of the chrome properties in Grant County.

Two things must be kept in mind in considering the chrome deposits of Grant County: (a) the deposits are of good commercial grade and constitute the third largest known reserve in the United States; (b) the Grant County deposits are not being mined for the simple reason that the imports are cheaper.

(Continued next page)

MINERALS (Cont.)

Large as the known deposits in Grant County are, their exploitation could not represent an everlasting boon to the economy of the area. Eventually, and depending entirely on the acceleration of operations, the reserves would be depleted. And unless careful planning had taken place in the meanwhile, the county would be worse off than before the exploitation began.

In the meantime the chrome deposits might be looked on in much the same way as a hoped for legacy from a rich relative.

The county does need to be alert that they do not lose the legacy by having it included in a wilderness area or some other similar project.

ASBESTOS

The geology of Grant and Wheeler Counties is favorable to the deposition of asbestos and many deposits are known to exist throughout the area. Many of the known deposits have had the attention of major producers, but none have as yet proved to be of commercial value when compared to larger and long fibre deposits in areas with cheaper transportation. This should not rule out continued exploration: the geology is favorable and the discovery of new and better deposits could add the mining of asbestos to the economy of the area.

Any one of three things might happen to add the mining of asbestos to the economy of the area: (1) exhaustion of the better located deposits, (2) improved processing technology which might make the mining of local deposits feasible, or (3) discovery of higher value deposits in the county - which is altogether possible.

MERCURY

There are several known quicksilver prospects in the area, but only three of these are in geologic formations offering any promise. Some prospecting has gone forward at all three locations but at only one has the search been continued and consistent. There are some fairly good indications that this one prospect will develop eventually

into a producer and, in view of the
future market, continued exploration

TUNGSTEN AND MOLYBDENUM

There are no known deposits of these
value in either county. The traditi
contact usually associated with schee
commercial value are largely missing
do occur.

NICKEL

There is one extensive deposit of lo
which would appear to warrant furthe
attention has already been paid to t
least two major mining firms but, so
certained, the explorations did not
dation level, nor was the complete a
plored. Early and complete investig
appears indicated.

COBALT

Grant County had the first-and-only
property on the West Coast. The pro
and so are the cobalt deposits. As
chrome, it is now much cheaper to im
United States than to mine it. In a
County property, the cobalt is assoc
ore, which was the principal product
cobalt was a commercial by-product.

Presently, it appears the only chanc
returning to production is for the p
to a point making the re-opening fea
borne in mind the cost of mining cob
small, compared to the cost of reduc
of both mining and reduction effecti
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some fairly good indi-
ll develop eventually

into a producer and, in view of the present and probable future market, continued exploration appears justified.

TUNGSTEN AND MOLYBDENUM

There are no known deposits of these ores of commercial value in either county. The traditional granite-limestone contact usually associated with scheelite orebodies of commercial value are largely missing and barren where they do occur.

NICKEL

There is one extensive deposit of low grade nickel ore which would appear to warrant further exploration. Some attention has already been paid to this deposit by at least two major mining firms but, so far as could be ascertained, the explorations did not plumb beneath the oxidation level, nor was the complete area of the deposit explored. Early and complete investigation of the deposit appears indicated.

COBALT

Grant County had the first-and-only cobalt producing property on the West Coast. The property is still there-and so are the cobalt deposits. As is the case with chrome, it is now much cheaper to import cobalt to the United States than to mine it. In addition, in the Grant County property, the cobalt is associated with the gold ore, which was the principal product at the time when the cobalt was a commercial by-product.

Presently, it appears the only chance of this property returning to production is for the price of gold to rise to a point making the re-opening feasible. It should be borne in mind the cost of mining cobalt is relatively small, compared to the cost of reduction and that cost of both mining and reduction effectively preclude its use where nickel can be substituted. On the other hand, it is a very imperfectly understood mineral. Any new discoveries of potential use, or improved technology in reduction might make production feasible.

COPPER

Copper mineralization is known to exist in the Quartzburg district, to a degree justifying intensive investigation with a view to determining the feasibility of open pit mining. Indeed, since little or no copper exploration has ever been done in the area, and none by a major producer in the past 25 years, it would appear some investigation of the known occurrences is in order, to determine the feasibility of mining these deposits by methods other than open pit; particularly so in view of the present world market for copper.

OIL AND GAS

The geology of most of the ar
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small sector in southwestern
is more than unfavorable; it
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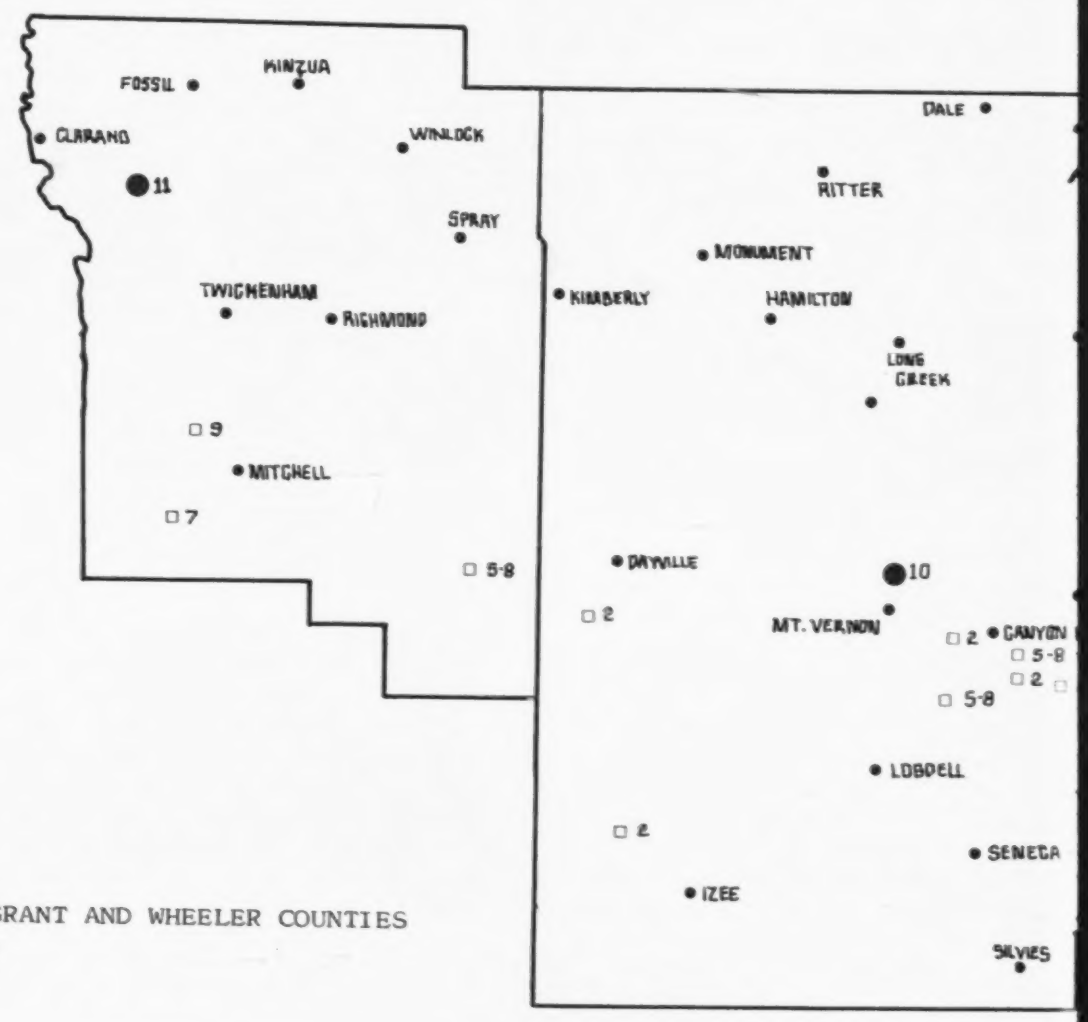
either. But, at least there
area.



Legend:

1. Antimony
2. Chromite
3. Cobalt
4. Copper
5. Gold
6. Nickel
7. Quicksilver
8. Silver
9. Uranium
10. Asbestos
11. Coal

COMMERCIAL MINERALS OF GRANT AND WHEELER COUNTIES
(Proven deposits, only).

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justifying intensive investi-
mining the feasibility of
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e in the area, and none by a
25 years, it would appear
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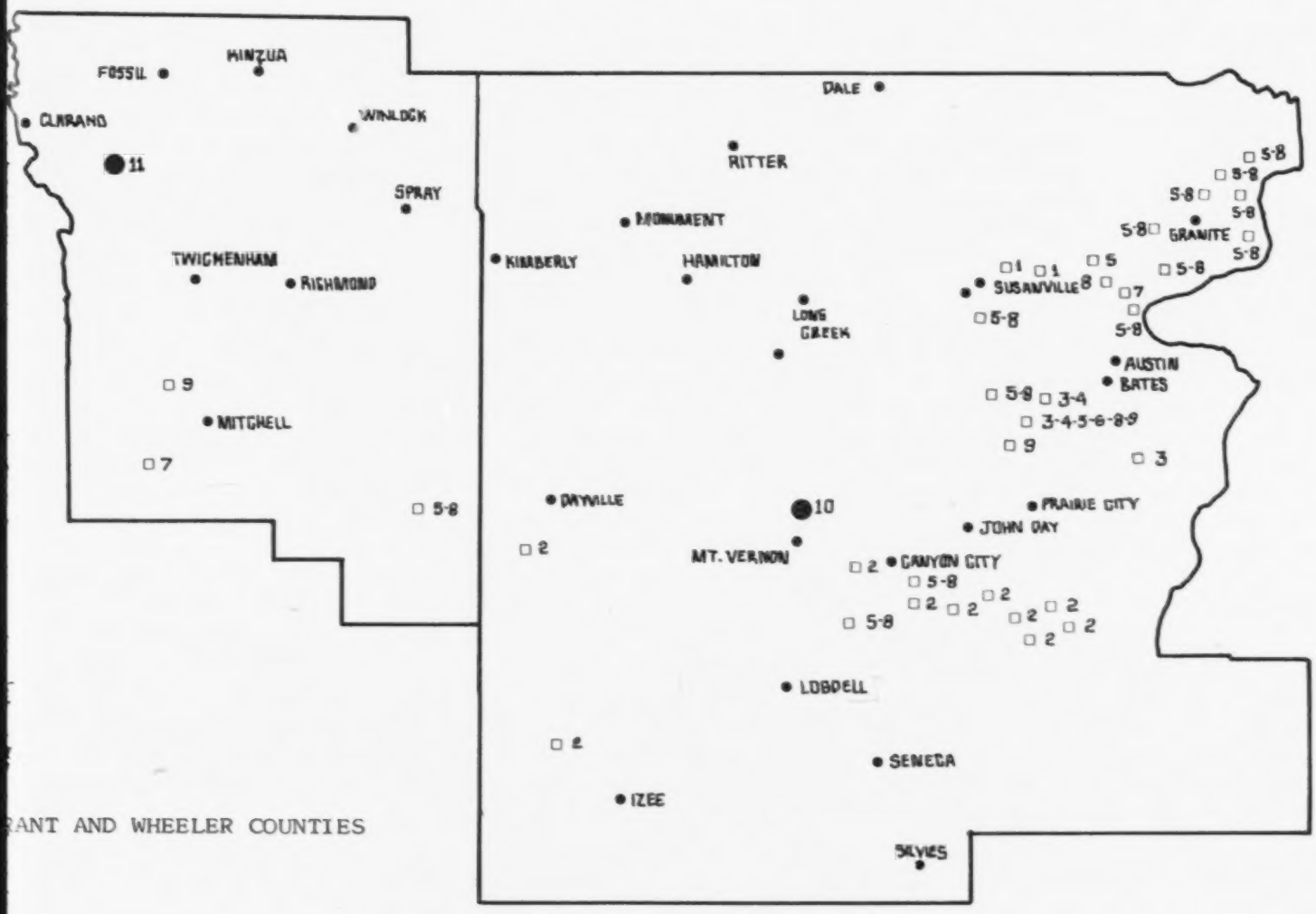
; particularly so in view of
r copper.

OIL AND GAS

The geology of most of the area is unfavorable to the occurrence of either oil or gas. In fact, except for a small sector in southwestern Grant County, the geology is more than unfavorable; it is utterly incompatible with such deposits. This is not to say that the formations in southwestern Grant County are highly favorable either. But, at least there is a possibility in that area.



RANT AND WHEELER COUNTIES

33

RECREATION POTENTIAL

One of the greatest, and at the same time the most overlooked, natural resources of the Grant-Wheeler area is the potential as a recreation area. It is true that at the present time this is a potential, only. Many things need to be done before there is any chance of the potential being realized, the prime one of which is the impoundment of the annual water run-off, to assure regulated stream flows during the summer and early fall months throughout the upper John Day Basin. Such an impoundment could be used to create a man-made lake of reasonable size, and within reasonable distance of present highways. It is questionable if the impoundment will be made within the reasonably foreseeable future because of the objections of a few upper basin residents to creation of a lake. The objectors are in the minority, since most of the people in the area realize the potential value as an attraction to both vacationers and week-enders. Like most minorities, the objectors are highly vocal, and it is very doubtful if any impoundment will be constructed over their objections. There are some current possibilities of an impoundment being constructed near the lower end of the upper basin, but this would have no effect on the recreation potential of most of the upper basin.

The area already has, in the form of the John Day-Thomas Condon fossil beds, a unique attraction such as is to be found nowhere else in the world. This is not a publicized area and, aside from a few geology students who visit the area on conducted field trips, some members of the "rockhound" fraternity, and a few casual visitors who believe in investigating unpublicized spots, not many people, even among Oregon residents, are aware of the existence of the beds. Not many of those who do visit return, since the facilities for visitors are minimal, to say the best. There is presently some possibility that the beds may be taken over as either a national park or a national monument. If this is allowed to happen, it would almost guarantee facilities for visitors being installed, and would result in some benefit to the economy of the immediately surrounding area, if properly publicized.

The Painted Hills area in sou
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the attention it deserves. Lo
miles off Highway 26, the are
graveled road. It is present
"park", but the facilities fo
pass muster as a roadside res
directional sign which can be
west on Route 26.

Actually, the entire Painted H
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as well. It could easily be t
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very little cost. There are m
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throughout the two counties wh
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counties but these are not too
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cept camping.

The area is also one of natura
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strongly held opinions, which
that the herds have been over
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Except for some of the downstr
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urrounding area, if properly

The Painted Hills area in southern Wheeler County is another great natural attraction which has not received the attention it deserves. Located approximately six miles off Highway 26, the area can be reached only by a graveled road. It is presently designated as a state "park", but the facilities for visitors would hardly pass muster as a roadside rest area. There is one small directional sign which can be read by visitors traveling west on Route 26.

Actually, the entire Painted Hills area is one of great scenic beauty, and one of considerable geologic interest, as well. It could easily be turned into one of the foremost tourist attractions in the State of Oregon, and at very little cost. There are many other areas of unusual scenic beauty and more than general interest scattered throughout the two counties which are not only unpublicized, but are difficult to reach at present. There are some campsites along the east-west route through the two counties but these are not too well-used during most of the summer season, simply because they offer nothing except camping.

The area is also one of natural habitat for deer, but the size of the herds have been considerably reduced in recent years through antlerless hunts. There are some strongly held opinions, which may or may not be right, that the herds have been over reduced. Certainly it is doubtful if the current chances of hunter success compare in any way with the 70 percent chance prevailing in 1960.

Except for some of the downstream areas lying in Wheeler County, and then in the winter months only, the John Day Basin has never been noted as a fishing area. Actually, lack of water in the streams during the summer and fall months pretty much preclude the establishment of a fish population in the upper reaches of the basin streams. This is merely one more recreational potential that could be realized by impoundment of the spring and winter runoff of surface water for stream regulation through later release.

THE LABOR FORCE

Of the total 9,408 persons in Grant and Wheeler Counties, 6,124, or approximately 65 percent, are 16 years of age and over. Of the 6,124 who are 16 years of age and older, 3,462, or approximately 56 percent, are in the active labor force. This number who are in the active labor force, constitutes approximately 37 percent of the total population of the two counties.

However, the labor force participation is considerably different in the two counties. In Grant County the active labor force equals approximately 35 percent of the total population and 55 percent of the population above the age of 16. In Wheeler County, 44 percent of the total population, and 72 percent of the population above the age of 16 are in the active labor force.

In addition to the active labor force, there is a pool of employable workers, who have stated a willingness to accept employment, but who are not in active search of work. The total of this group for the two counties is 248, or approximately four percent of all persons 16 years of age or older. The percentage of this group in relation to total population is much higher in Grant County than in Wheeler, but in both counties is composed almost exclusively of females.

The active labor force in both counties is predominantly male and this is largely accounted for by the lack of suitable employment for females. Of the total 3,343 persons who did some work during the survey week (June 11-17, 1967) only 751, or slightly more than 22 percent, were female. Of the wage and salary workers employed during the same week, only an approximate 25 percent were female. Nationally, an approximate 35 percent of the wage and salary jobs are held by females; in the State of Oregon as a whole the percentage is slightly lower. It is, therefore, reasonable to assume that a large pool of employable females exists in the two counties. Presently, these women are not in the active labo they realize the futility of an active in the face of the present shortage of could reasonably be expected to fill. group responded to contacts by the Hou of the Small Communities Services, regi and went through the counseling and in aptitude testing processes. Many of th experience in types of work which were either county. A few had skills which the two counties but the skills were r over a period of several years. Other from high school to marriage, without e effectively employed, and were now cons the labor force for the first time.

As a result of the counseling and testi conclusion was made that there is a poo able which could be used to staff up a light manufacturing plant offering work males. Very few were found with any de cations in the technical or professiona more than a few were found with really trained aptitudes in these fields. Tho group who were free to leave the area w tional training under the Manpower Deve ing Act. All of those sent to training for employment in the area upon complet However, most of those trained are expe ployment elsewhere, because of the lack ties in the area.

The Occupational Study was undertaken i at what might be considered as the peak the area. For this reason, very few pe found who were not only unemployed, but search of work. Ordinarily on a year a

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THE LABOR FORCE

Grant and Wheeler Counties, ent, are 16 years of age and years of age and older, cent, are in the active are in the active labor ly 37 percent of the total .

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As a result of the counseling and testing program, the conclusion was made that there is a pool of labor available which could be used to staff up almost any type of light manufacturing plant offering work suitable for females. Very few were found with any degree of qualifications in the technical or professional fields, although more than a few were found with really excellent, but untrained aptitudes in these fields. Those in the latter group who were free to leave the area were sent to vocational training under the Manpower Development and Training Act. All of those sent to training will be available for employment in the area upon completion of training. However, most of those trained are expected to accept employment elsewhere, because of the lack of job opportunities in the area.

The Occupational Study was undertaken in the two counties at what might be considered as the peak of employment in the area. For this reason, very few persons (119) were found who were not only unemployed, but were in active search of work. Ordinarily on a year around average, the

(Continued next page)

number unemployed and actively seeking work is approximately double the number found by the Mobile Team in the month of June, and peaks in January at approximately three times that number. Approximately half of the group were marginal workers, at best. Unfortunately, most of the skills represented by this group were of a nature for which little or no market exists in the two-county area. Actually, there would be some doubt as to the advisability of including some of these people in the labor force, except for their stated willingness in most cases to accept employment considerably below their skill level.

At the time of the study in the two-county area, there were approximately 200 youths aged 16 and 17 years who were in the labor force on a temporary basis. Most of these youths were still in high school, and most will move out of the labor force upon resumption of school in September. A few, however, have part-time jobs on a year around basis and will remain in the labor force after the start of school. At the time of the study, slightly less than half of the 16 and 17 year olds who were in the labor force were employed. The greater part of those employed were males, and most were engaged in seasonal agricultural work. In passing, it should be noted that approximately one-half of these youths who were in the labor force on a temporary basis at the time of the study, will become permanent additions to the labor force upon completion of high school. This will be a continuing situation, from year to year and the number of additions (approximately 150 per year) far exceeds the probable need for additional workers in the area, either for employment expansion or for replacement of workers who can be expected to leave the labor force. It therefore follows that some of the youths will out-migrate upon completion of school. Nevertheless, it seems advisable that the qualifications of the entire group should be assessed, since the presumption exists that the majority would remain in the county if employment were available.

Of the approximate 150 who can be expected to complete high school each year during at least the next four years, only an approximate 40 percent can, on the basis of past records, be expected to continue their schooling, either vocationally or in regular four-year schools. Very few of these can be expected to return to the area upon com-

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Pages 37 through 43 presen
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return to the area upon com-

pletion of school. Of those who do return, most will be in the group who expect to major in agriculture and allied subjects.

Of those in the youth group who were counseled, or counseled and tested for occupational aptitudes, the majority expressed a preference for types of work that are not prevalent in the area. Many had aptitudes in keeping with their preferences. The end result was the conclusion that the youth of the area also constitute a potential labor pool which could be used to staff up types of industry not presently existing in the area. This seems worth noting for the benefit of any industry development group seeking to attract new industry to the area.

The occupational potential of the employed labor force was also closely scanned, with the result that it was determined that (a) many of those now employed were working considerably below either their skill level or their occupational potential, (b) many of those now employed were deficient in basic education, and could be measurably helped by an adult education program and, (c) many of those now employed are well motivated by a lively interest in self-betterment and would be quick to take advantage of any adult education program offering possibilities in keeping with their interests. With very few exceptions, the additional education and training sought by those now employed was allied to their present field of work. Rarely did those persons contacted express a desire for the "hobby" type training which would not ordinarily be used directly in the business of earning a living. Oddly enough, it appears that there is more of a desire among the workers of the county to improve their skills, than there is of demand among the employers of the area for such improvement.

Pages 37 through 43 present a tabular exposition of the occupational qualifications of those persons who were unemployed and seeking work, available for but not seeking work, and the future labor market entrants.

* * * * * * * *

THE LABOR FORCE OF GRANT AND WHEELER COUNTIES
(Week of June 11 - 17, 1967)

TABLE V

GRANT 2,316 Households			WHEELER 679 Households
4,972	1.	TOTAL, 16 and over	1,152
685	2.	Retired	119
82	3.	Unable to work 1/	18
1,308	4.	Able but not available for work	202
209	5.	Available but not seeking work	39
2,284	6.	Total over 16 but not in active labor force.	378
85	7.	Unemployed and actively seeking work	34
1,834	8.	Employed in wage & salary nonag. jobs	471
204	9.	Self-employed nonag. work	56
85	10.	Unpaid family & domestics	24
182	11.	Farm operators 2/	101
128	12.	Year around farm wage workers 3/	36
170	13.	Seasonal farm workers	52
2,688	14.	Total active labor force	774
76%	15.	Percent of 8, above, working 30 or more hrs.	81%

LABOR FORCE STATUS IN THE 52 WEEKS PRECEDING STUDY

2,757	1.	Did some work 4/	783
1,711	2.	Employed all 52 weeks (including vacation)	367
222	3.	Employed 40 to 51 weeks	94
200	4.	Employed 30 to 39 weeks	103
76	5.	Employed 25 to 29 weeks	102
548	6.	Employed less than 25 weeks	117
106	7.	Employed part time all 52 weeks	63
18	8.	Seeking work more than 26 weeks	2
34	9.	Seeking work 20 to 26 weeks	3

1/ Does not include those over 65 years of age.
2/ Does not include those who worked 26 or more weeks off the farm.
3/ Persons working 26 or more weeks on the farm.
4/ Includes both agricultural & nonagricultural self-employment and wage work, as well as unpaid family work.

TABLE VI

EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF PERSONS 18 AND OVER
(Whether in the labor force or not)

GRANT COUNTY		SCHOOL YEARS COMPLETED	WH
MALE	FEMALE		MALE
45	13	0 through 4 years	17
543	372	5 through 8 years	181
555	558	9 through 11 years	160
818	968	12 years	121
219	247	13 through 15 years	24
206	158	16 years or more	31

TABLE VI-a

		YEARS OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING	
530	622	One year	110
218	303	Two years	107
206	31	Three years	24
36	0	Four or more	2
1,396	1,360	None	291

EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF PERSONS 18 AND OVER
(Whether in the labor force or not)

TY		WHEELER COUNTY	
FEMALE	SCHOOL YEARS COMPLETED	MALE	FEMALE
13	0 through 4 years	17	8
372	5 through 8 years	181	149
558	9 through 11 years	160	129
968	12 years	121	183
247	13 through 15 years	24	49
158	16 years or more	31	28
	YEARS OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING		
622	One year	110	126
303	Two years	107	112
31	Three years	24	27
0	Four or more	2	8
1,360	None	291	273

EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF PERSONS IN THE ACTIVE LABOR FORCE
(18 years old and over)

GRANT COUNTY		SCHOOL YEARS COMPLETED	W
MALE	FEMALE		MAL
2	0	0 through 4 years	
306	3	5 through 8 years	13
522	189	9 through 11 years	14
701	232	12 years	16
184	177	13 through 15 years	1
177	85	16 years and over	2
		YEARS OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING	
411	153	One year	9
202	201	Two years	11
164	28	Three years	3
32	0	Four or more	
1,083	304	None	24

EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF PERSONS IN THE ACTIVE LABOR FORCE
(18 years old and over)

TABLE VII

NTY	SCHOOL YEARS COMPLETED	WHEELER COUNTY	
FEMALE		MALE	FEMALE
0	0 through 4 years	5	0
3	5 through 8 years	130	31
189	9 through 11 years	141	64
232	12 years	162	114
177	13 through 15 years	19	23
85	16 years and over	27	26

TABLE VII-a

	YEARS OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING		
153	One year	98	34
201	Two years	112	98
28	Three years	31	21
0	Four or more	2	6
304	None	241	99

TABLE VIII

LABOR FORCE STATUS BY AGE GROUPS
(Persons 16 years of age and over)
GRANT AND WHEELER COUNTIES
June 11 - 17, 1967

AGE GROUP	TOTAL IN GROUP	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED AND ACTIVELY SEEKING WORK	AVAILABLE, NOT SEEKING
16 through 21 years	735	388	76	41
22 through 34 years	1,393	805	13	28
35 through 44 years	1,219	891	13	117
45 through 54 years	1,132	703	14	19
55 through 64 years	816	487	3	26
65 years and over	829	69	0	17
TOTAL	6,124	3,343	119	248

LABOR FORCE STATUS BY AGE GROUPS
(Persons 16 years of age and over)
GRANT AND WHEELER COUNTIES
June 11 - 17, 1967

AL IN GROUP	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED AND ACTIVELY SEEKING WORK	AVAILABLE, NOT SEEKING	NOT AVAILABLE
735	388	76	41	230
1,393	805	13	28	547
1,219	891	13	117	198
1,132	703	14	19	396
816	487	3	26	300
829	69	0	17	743
6,124	3,343	119	248	2,414

EDUCATION OF THOSE SEEKING WORK — TABLE IX

MALE		FEMALE
1	.....0 through 4 years.....	0
0	.....5 through 8 years.....	3
16	.....9 through 11 years....	64
1	....12 years	31
0	....13 through 15 years....	2
0	....16 years and over	1
18	TOTALS	101

VOCATIONAL TRAINING OF THOSE SEEKING WORK — TABLE IX-a

MALE	TRAINING	FEMALE
8	None	36
2	One year	28
4	Two years	29
0	Three years	8
4	Four years	0
18	TOTALS	101

TOTAL YEARS WORKED IN PAST FIVE — TABLE IX-b

MALE		FEMALE
0	None	7
1	Less than one	46
8	One to two	33
5	Two to three	13
4	Three to four	2
18	TOTALS	101

SKI

MALE Primary	MALE Secondary*
0	0
0	0
1	2
6	1
4	5
3	2
0	1
2	3
2	3
18	17

*Secondary based on

THOSE SEEKING WORK

TABLE IX

	FEMALE
ough 4 years.....	0
ough 8 years.....	3
ough 11 years....	64
rs	31
ough 15 years....	2
rs and over	1
	101

NG OF THOSE SEEKING WORK

TABLE IX-a

RAINING	FEMALE
one	36
ne year	28
wo years	29
hree years	8
our years	0
OTALS	101

WORKED IN PAST FIVE

TABLE IX-b

	FEMALE
one	7
ess than one	46
ne to two	33
wo to three	13
aree to four	2
OTALS	101

SKILLS OF THOSE SEEKING WORK

TABLE X

MALE Primary	MALE Secondary*		FEMALE Primary	FEMALE Secondary*
0	0	Professional Technical Managerial	2	0
0	0	Clerical	28	3
1	2	Sales	15	4
6	1	Service	23	19
4	5	Fishing Farming Forestry	0	1
3	2	Processing	15	1
0	1	Bench Work	2	1
2	3	Structural	0	0
2	3	Miscellaneous	16	11
18	17	TOTAL	101	40

*Secondary based on experience.

TABLE XI

CAPABILITIES OF THE INACTIVE LABOR FORCE

Based on Work Experience Primary	Based on Work Experience Secondary	Occupation	Basis Other Than Work Experience Primary	Basis Other Than Work Experience Secondary
1	1	Professional Technical Managerial	2	6
36	18	Clerical	4	1
14	6	Sales	7	3
62	13	Service	16	10
5	2	Farm Fishing Forestry	2	1
46	18	Processing	8	9
17	14	Bench Work	1	3
5	3	Structural	0	1
21	22	Miscellaneous	1	2
207	97	TOTALS	41	36

EDUCATION OF
BUT NOT

TABLE XII

SCHOOL YEARS COMPLE

0 through 4 years.	
5 through 8 years.	
9 through 11 years.	
12 years.....	
13 through 15 years.	
16 and over.....	

TABLE XII-a

YEARS OF VO

None.....	
One year.....	
Two years.....	
Three years...	
Four years....	

TABLE XII-b

TOTAL YEARS WO

None.....	
Less than one.	
One to two....	
Two to three..	
Three to four.	

LABOR FORCE

Basis Other Than Work Experience	
Primary	Secondary
2	6
4	1
7	3
16	10
2	1
8	9
1	3
0	1
1	2
41	36

EDUCATION OF THOSE AVAILABLE FOR, BUT NOT SEEKING WORK

TABLE XII

SCHOOL YEARS COMPLETED

0 through 4 years	0
5 through 8 years	16
9 through 11 years	54
12 years	162
13 through 15 years	14
16 and over	2

TABLE XII-a

YEARS OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING

None	168
One year	46
Two years	31
Three years	1
Four years	2

TABLE XII-b

TOTAL YEARS WORKED IN PAST FIVE

None	76
Less than one	65
One to two	85
Two to three	19
Three to four	3

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE LABOR MARKET

OCCUPATIONAL GROUP	------PRIMARY CLASSIFICATIONS----- QUALIFIED	ENTRY, 6 DIGIT	ENTRY, 5 DIGIT	----- ENTR 6 DIG
Professional, Technical and Managerial	0	0	2	0
Clerical	1	2	7	0
Sales	1	0	6	1
Service	8	7	13	5
Farm, Fishing and Forestry	1	5	19	0
Process Work	6	7	3	3
Mechanical Repair	0	0	2	0
Bench Work	0	0	0	0
Structural Work	0	0	3	0
Miscellaneous	3	0	7	0

Total Primary Classifications..... 103 Total Se

Of the total 178 high school juniors in the two counties who could normally be expected to complete high school in 1968, 103 were registered with the Mobile Team. Of those registered, 84 indicated definitely that they would not continue their education after completing high school and 19 were in doubt, either because of a financial situation, or for reasons having to do with the type of education to pursue.

Of those who did not contemplate further education, 36 had already gained enough of work which they intend cupational classification speaking, lacking in expe occupations. In fact, ma ledge of the work for whi ence. Of the total 67 wh 51 underwent the General fort to measure occupatio pressed preferences.

TIONS OF THE LABOR MARKET ENTRANTS

TABLE XIII

------PRIMARY CLASSIFICATIONS-----			-----SECONDARY CLASSIFICATIONS-----		
QUALIFIED	ENTRY, 6 DIGIT	ENTRY, 5 DIGIT	ENTRY, 6 DIGIT	ENTRY, 5 DIGIT	ENTRY, 4 DIGIT
0	0	2	0	0	1
1	2	7	0	1	3
1	0	6	1	2	4
8	7	13	5	0	0
1	5	19	0	0	0
6	7	3	3	5	0
0	0	2	0	0	3
0	0	0	0	2	1
0	0	3	0	0	2
3	0	7	0	0	0
Total Primary Classifications..... 103			Total Secondary Classifications.....33		

iors in the two counties
o complete high school
h the Mobile Team. Of
efinitely that they would
er completing high school
ause of a financial situa-
o with the type of educa-

further education, 36

had already gained enough experience in the general lines of work which they intended to pursue to justify an occupational classification. The other 48 were, generally speaking, lacking in experience in their intended future occupations. In fact, many of them actually had no knowledge of the work for which they had expressed a preference. Of the total 67 who were occupationally counseled, 51 underwent the General Aptitude Test Battery in an effort to measure occupational potential in relation to expressed preferences.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING INTERESTS
(Persons 16 years of age and over)
GRANT AND WHEELER COUNTIES
June 11 - 17, 1967

TABLE XIV

	MALE	FEMALE
TOTAL Persons in Age Group	3,122	3,002
TYPE OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING PREFERRED:		
Technical	109	87
Clerical	11	169
Sales	7	3
Service	14	96
Bench Work	31	29
Structural Hand Trades	22	0
Machine Repair	91	0
Machine Processing	27	1
Equip. Opr. (Structural)	63	0
Total Interested in Vocational Training	375	385
Interested in Professional Training	21	37
TOTAL Interested in Training	396	422
Not Presently Interested In Training	2,726	2,580
OF THOSE INTERESTED IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING:		
(a) Total now employed	381	106
(b) Willing to leave area for training	38	47
(c) Willing to leave area for employment	173	51
(d) Could finance own training:		
1. If available locally	242	185
2. If out of the area	9	0
(e) Assistance needed, amount		
1. Free Tuition	21	13
2. Tuition, plus subsistence	43	76
3. Tuition, subsistence and allowance	60	111

Of the more than 800 perso
ther training, 487 were em
of the interested males we
about one out of four of t
matching the training desi
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conclusion was reached tha
to increase their skills i
jobs, although almost one
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of the latter group were i
end, low-paying, or unplea
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The female contingent inte
composed of women who desi
Many of those interested i
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had never used it. Appro
males interested in traini
the 25 percent who were em
jobs in the Service occupa
few in the processing occu
held to be too strenuous f

Nearly one-fourth of the w
are currently doing unpaid
owned business or agricult

Almost all of the females
for the low percentage who
area, either for training

In addition to the 818 per
there were another 132 who
training for hobby purpose

TERESTS		
and over)		
UNTIES		
967		
MALE	FEMALE	
3,122	3,002	
D:		
9	87	
1	169	
7	3	
4	96	
1	29	
2	0	
1	0	
7	1	
3	0	
5	385	
21	37	
396	422	
2,726	2,580	
RAINING:		
81	106	
38	47	
73	51	
42	185	
9	0	
21	13	
43	76	
60	111	

Of the more than 800 persons who were interested in further training, 487 were employed. However, almost all of the interested males were employed, whereas only about one out of four of the females were working. After matching the training desired with the work experience and educational qualifications of the male workers, the conclusion was reached that most of the men were seeking to increase their skills in relation to their present jobs, although almost one-half wanted training in occupations totally unrelated to their current jobs. Most of the latter group were in jobs that were either dead-end, low-paying, or unpleasant; only a few appeared to carry the motivation of the perennial job-hopper. Approximately one-third of those who were interested in training lacked the basic education necessary to absorb vocational training.

The female contingent interested in training was largely composed of women who desired to fit themselves for jobs. Many of those interested in clerical training had received a smattering of this training in high school, but had never used it. Approximately 30 percent of the females interested in training were school dropouts. Of the 25 percent who were employed, most were in low-paying jobs in the Service occupations, but there were also a few in the processing occupations, in jobs ordinarily held to be too strenuous for women.

Nearly one-fourth of the women seeking clerical training, are currently doing unpaid clerical work in a family owned business or agricultural operation.

Almost all of the females were married, which accounts for the low percentage who were willing to leave the area, either for training or employment.

In addition to the 818 persons listed in Table XIV , there were another 132 who were patently interested in training for hobby purposes.

METHODOLOGY

In order to determine current manpower use and secure a projection of future manpower need in Grant and Wheeler Counties, all employers of five or more workers were personally interviewed, and all employers having one, but less than five workers on their payrolls were contacted by telephone. All employers were asked to detail their current employment by occupation, sex and age; whether there were any current vacancies in any occupation; and their estimates of enployment in each occupation for June 1969 and June 1972.

Employers of five or more persons were asked to state their minimum requirements, in terms of training and/or experience in hiring for individual occupations, and whether or not in-plant training was provided.

Concurrently with the gathering of data in respect to current manpower use and future manpower need, procedure was set in motion to gather data with respect to the skills and educational profile of all county residents above the age of 16, whether in the labor force or not. This procedure consisted of a Household Study, encompassing every household that could be located in the two counties. Actual work of gathering data for this study was done by local residents, hired in ten different localities throughout the two counties expressly for this purpose. Thorough training was afforded to those hired, prior to the start of the study. Since each study worker was thoroughly familiar with the area to which they were assigned, there is no reason to believe that any household in the two counties escaped attention. Of some 2,995 households contacted by survey workers, complete data were secured for 2,927. Partial data, consisting of the total in the household, and age, sex, marital status and physical condition of each member, were secured from 41 household
where no data could be sec
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2. Total number in househ
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3. Age, sex, marital stat
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4. Attachment to the labo
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5. Attachment to the labo
ber over the age of 16 for
survey week.

6. Occupation(s) in which
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7. For each household mem
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if any, and the type of wo

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secured from 41 households. There were 27 instances where no data could be secured directly from the household, but the study workers were able to secure the total number of persons in the household from neighbors, or by other means. The complete data secured from the 2,927 households accounted for 97.8 percent of the total population found in the two counties and, with the age, sex, marital status and physical characteristics data contained in the abbreviated reports, accounted for 99.2 percent of the total population.

Schedules used by the Household Study workers were designed to cover the following 15 items of basic information:

1. Length of time the household had been in the county, and type of present residence location; whether rural farm, rural nonfarm or in an incorporated area. (Note: there are no urban areas in either Grant or Wheeler Counties).

2. Total number in household, regardless of ages, broken into three groups: those under 10 years of age, those 10 to 15 years of age, and those 16 years of age and over.

3. Age, sex, marital status, relationship to head of household and physical condition of each member of the household over the age of 16.

4. Attachment to the labor force of each member of the household over the age of 16 during the survey week.

5. Attachment to the labor force of each household member over the age of 16 for the 52 weeks ending with the survey week.

6. Occupation(s) in which each household member over the age of 16 reported having worked, either during the survey week, or the 52 weeks ending with the survey week.

7. For each household member who reported having sought work during the 52 weeks ending with the survey week, the principal work performed during the preceding five years, if any, and the type of work sought.

8. Which members of the household, if any, were ready to move elsewhere for permanent work, with the type of work desired and the minimum wage acceptable.

9. Which members of the household, if any, were ready to leave home for temporary work, with the type of work desired and minimum wage acceptable.

10. Which members of the household, if any, were available for seasonal agricultural work, including the crops interested in and the minimum wage desired.

11. For those household members who were operating a farm, whether or not they were available for full time nonfarm work, with the type of work, wages desired, maximum commuting distance willing to travel and whether or not taking such a job would reduce the size of the farm operation.

12. Which household members, if any, were commuting to work outside the county, with the type of work involved and the location.

13. The number of years of completed schooling for each member of the household over the age of 16, the number of years and type of vocational training, if any, and whether or not this vocational training had ever been used in his work, or of help in obtaining work.

14. Which members of the household, if any, were now interested in vocational training, and the type of training, if interested.

15. For those members of the household who were interested in vocational training, the extent to which they would be able to finance their own training.

With regard to items 4 and 5 of the basic data, the schedules were also designed to show whether or not the schedule respondent was self-employed, either farm or nonfarm, a wage worker, either farm or nonfarm, or was engaged in unpaid family work. Also, if the respondent was employed less than thirty hours during the survey week, whether they were in addition either seeking work, ready for work but not looking, engaged in domestic duties, attending school, retired, or unable to work. This same informa-

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Household Study, inc
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tion was also developed for the 51 weeks preceding the Household Study, including the number of weeks spent in each category.

All respondents who reported seeking work were asked to complete registrations for work with the Mobile Team at scheduled points throughout the two-county area, as were those who reported being ready to work but not actually seeking work.

Those respondents who reported an interest in vocational training were furnished preliminary registration forms, and given appointments at specific times and places throughout the area for return of these forms.

In addition to the data developed with regard to the human resource of the area, data were also developed covering the natural resources, business trends, and economic problems of the area. Most of this was accomplished through research into reports of studies made by various agencies, (see Appendix A) but some was necessarily compiled through actual contacts with operating industries, government officials and professional workers, both within and without the county.

All data with regard to present manpower use and possible future manpower need, along with data used to set up the occupational profiles of the labor force were transferred to key punched documents and will be retained indefinitely in the Central Office of the Oregon Department of Employment. Actually, only a portion of the developed information is published in this brochure, because of limitations of space and general interest. Anyone wishing additional information concerning the occupational potential of the people of the area should address his request to:

Smaller Communities Services Program
Oregon State Employment Service
Room 413 - Labor and Industries Bldg.
Salem, Oregon 97310

APPENDIX A

Selected Reference Materials:

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Smaller Communities Services, as a unit of the Oregon Department of Employment, takes this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the co-operation and assistance of the following groups in making this report possible:

To the Grant County Planning Commission and specifically to C. L. Smith, Chairman, for assistance in presenting the program to the public.

To the Grant County Fair Board for the donation of office quarters and utilities used by the Mobile Team while in Grant County.

To the Grant County Commissioners for the installation of a telephone in the quarters donated by the Fair Board.

To the Grant County Chamber of Commerce for review of this report and content suggestion.

To all of the high schools of both Grant and Wheeler Counties for use of their facilities for interviewing, registering, counseling and testing of adults.

A word of thanks is also due to the many employers who took time out from their own business day to co-operate in furnishing information for the study, which could not otherwise have been secured. This also is true of the many householders who willingly complied with requests for information in connection with the Household Study.

Finally, a word of thanks to the Press and Radio media of the counties, who kept the project continually before the public during the entire time the study was in progress.

* * * * * * * * * * *